

Statement on Early Start Program

CSU English Council

Adopted April 15, 2011

Although English Council is united in our objection to the English Placement Test (EPT) being used to categorize students as not proficient and to put them into a process that may ultimately deny them enrollment in the CSU, we continue to recognize and respect campus autonomy in whether and how the EPT is used.

English Council endorses a data-supported model for entry-level reading and writing whereby students go directly into mainstreamed/stretch first-year composition courses and students are provided with information to make choices about their placement options not dependent on EPT scores. Given the requirement of at least a one-unit ESP experience in English, English Council supports the adoption of a 15-hour, one-unit curriculum that introduces students to their first-year options and provides them with structured guidance for making their own placement decisions. In response to the CSU Implementation Committee's request for an EPT cutoff score for students required to participate in the Early Start Program in 2012, in absence of system-wide data, English Council supports the EPT Development Committee's recommendation of a 138 cutoff score.

English Council has also been asked to adopt a scoring procedure similar to the one proposed by Math Council. We therefore suggest a 0/1 score for ESP. A score of 0 means that the student did not enroll in ESP; a score of 1 means that the student participated in an ESP program, but still needs to enroll in first-year courses as per placement options at student's destination campus. Per the ESP Implementation Committee's recommendation that campuses with stretch programs be exempt from Early Start, English Council encourages campuses to reserve the period 2012-2014 for assessment and further development of mainstreaming stretch options and Directed Self-Placement.

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