December 17, 2019

Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair
Joint Legislative Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814

Gabriel Petek
Legislative Analyst Office
925 L Street, #1000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Keely Bosler, Director
Department of Finance
State Capitol, Room 1145
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 3044
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Legislative Counsel
State Capitol, Room 3021
Sacramento, CA 95814

E. Dotson Wilson
Chief Clerk of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3196
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: California State University Report: Reading, Writing, and Mathematics Proficiency of All First-Time Freshmen

Section 66015.12 of the California Education Code states that the California State University (CSU) shall submit a draft and final report to the Legislature each year that includes proficiency status and exam information for all first-time freshmen.

On August 2, 2017, Chancellor Timothy White issued Executive Order 1110 (enclosed) revising CSU policies related to placement of first-time students into English and mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses beginning with the Fall 2018 entering class. The Executive Order retires the English Placement Test (EPT) and Entry-Level Mathematics (ELM) Test for determining course placement, and replaces stand-alone non-credit developmental education courses with new baccalaureate credit-bearing courses to provide more targeted instruction and academic support to students in these subject areas and facilitate progress towards degree completion. The EPT and ELM
exams were not offered to Fall 2019 first-time freshmen entrants. All new Fall 2019 freshmen enrolled in baccalaureate Written Communication and Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning courses (come in enhanced college-level, baccalaureate credit-bearing courses).

Due to this change in policy, California State University has no new data to report on the proficiency of first-time students for fall 2019 and in the future. Historical information for Fall 2017 and prior years can be found online at: http://asd.calstate.edu/performance/proficiency.shtml

Should you have any questions about this report, please contact Nichole Muñoz-Murillo, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Advocacy and State Relations at (916) 449-3541 or nmunoz-murillo@calstate.edu.

Sincerely,

Steve Relyea  
Executive Vice Chancellor and  
Chief Financial Officer

SR:dr

c: Members, California State Legislature (if applicable)  
Members, Joint Legislative Budget Committee (if applicable)  
Mac Taylor, Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst’s Office  
Paul Steenhausen, Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst’s Office  
Timothy P. White, Chancellor, California State University  
Loren J. Blanchard, Executive Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs  
Garrett Ashley, Vice Chancellor, University Relations and Advancement  
Kathleen Chavira, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Advocacy and State Relations  
Ryan Storm, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Budget  
Kara Perkins, Executive Budget Director  
Edward Sullivan, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Institutional Research and Analyses
TO: CSU Presidents
FROM: Timothy P. White
Chancellor

SUBJECT: Assessment of Academic Preparation and Placement in First-Year General Education Written Communication and Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning Courses Executive Order 1110

Attached is a copy of Executive Order 1110 relating to the assessment of academic preparation for and placement in written communication in English courses and mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses. This executive order supersedes Executive Order 1048 and elements of Executive Order 665 and reflects significant guidance and feedback from the Academic Senate CSU, discipline faculty, students and our educational partners. The order provides for the broadest utilization of multiple measures in assessing academic readiness and determining course placement for first-year students. The Early Start Program is recast to allow students to focus on a single discipline and acquire necessary foundational content at the same time they earn baccalaureate credit. The executive order also supports faculty innovation in curriculum and facilitates equitable opportunity for first-year students to succeed through existing and redesigned education models.

The timeline for implementation begins in fall 2018 with the introduction of new baccalaureate credit-bearing courses that strengthen skills development to facilitate achieving the appropriate general education student learning outcomes. Recognizing the engagement necessary for developing or reshaping curriculum, the effective term for implementation of all changes to the Early Start Program shall be summer 2019; however, campuses may pilot innovative instructional approaches to the Early Start Program prior to summer 2019.

In accordance with policy of the California State University, the campus president has the responsibility for implementing executive orders where applicable and for maintaining the campus repository and index for all executive orders.
If you have questions regarding this executive order, please contact the office of Student Academic Services at EVCASAsists@calstate.edu or (562) 951-4744.

TPW/ne

Attachment

c: CSU Office of the Chancellor Leadership
   Dr. Christine Miller, Chair, Academic Senate CSU
   Provosts/Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs
   Vice Presidents for Student Affairs
   Associate Provosts/Associate Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs
   Deans of Undergraduate Studies
   Directors of Admissions and Records
   Admissions Advisory Council
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Office of the Chancellor  
401 Golden Shore  
Long Beach, California 90802-4210  
(562) 951-4744

Executive Order: 1110  
Effective Date: August 2, 2017  
Supersedes: Executive Order 1048 Effective June 2010  
In part Executive Order 665 Effective February 1997 (IA; IB; IIA; IIB)  
Title: Assessment of Academic Preparation and Placement in First-Year  
General Education Written Communication and Mathematics/Quantitative  
Reasoning Courses

This executive order is issued pursuant to Section 40402.1 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, and Section II (a) of the Standing Orders of the Board of Trustees of the California State University (CSU) REP 01-96-02 and REP 01-08-01. This executive order applies to all first-time freshmen who enter the CSU for fall 2018 matriculation and subsequent academic terms.

I. Purpose

This executive order establishes CSU policy regarding first-year enrollment in CSU-required written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses and college-level skills assessment to inform placement in appropriate courses.

II. Delegation of Authority

In accordance with CSU policy, the campus president is responsible for implementing executive orders where applicable and maintaining the campus repository and index for all executive orders.

III. Guiding Principles

- The CSU is committed to providing students an equitable opportunity to succeed academically at the university and to providing rigorous instruction in general education written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning.

- Rigorous high school preparatory experiences in general education written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning prepare prospective CSU students for academic success.

- Successful completion of general education written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses in the first year of CSU enrollment establish a foundation for continuous learning.
- Freshmen in need of additional academic development are supported in the Early Start Program and in enhanced college-level, baccalaureate credit-bearing courses.

- CSU faculty provide academic support by making curricular modifications to existing courses, by developing new courses, or by introducing innovative instructional approaches that achieve appropriately rigorous student-learning outcomes.

- General education written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning requirements completed at one campus seamlessly transfer to other CSU campuses.

IV. Skills Assessment and Course Placement Recommendations

Freshman skills assessment and recommended placement for general education written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses shall be based on multiple measures of academic proficiency. Such measures may include high school English and mathematics/quantitative reasoning course grades, high school grade point averages, grades in collegiate courses, ACT scores, SAT scores, Advanced Placement scores, International Baccalaureate scores, SAT subject tests or Smarter Balanced Assessment/Early Assessment Program scores.

A. The CSU shall establish systemwide placement standards.

B. The CSU Admissions Advisory Council (AAC) comprised of CSU faculty, students and administrators shall be responsible for the review and recommendation of revisions to systemwide policies regarding:

1. Assessment of college readiness for successful completion of general education written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses;

2. Preparatory requirements for general education written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning course placement; and

3. The Early Start Program.

C. Each campus shall establish a student course-placement appeals process.

D. Effective with this executive order, the English Placement Test (EPT) and the Entry-Level Mathematics (ELM) Test shall not be offered, and the EPT and ELM committees are discontinued.

V. Enrollment in General Education Written Communication and Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning Courses

A. During the first academic year, unless the requirement has been completed, freshmen shall enroll in general education written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses appropriate to each student's major and skill level, as demonstrated by applicable systemwide standards.
B. Students whose skills assessments indicate academic support will be needed for successful completion of general education written communication or mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses shall enroll in appropriate college-level, baccalaureate credit-bearing courses that strengthen skills development to facilitate achieving the appropriate general education student learning outcomes. Supportive course models may include, among others, co-requisite approaches, supplemental instruction, or “stretch” formats that extend a course beyond one academic term. In these approaches, instructional content considered pre-baccalaureate may carry a maximum of one unit and shall be offered concurrently with a college-level, baccalaureate credit-bearing course.

C. Campuses shall offer sufficient general education written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning course sections to meet student enrollment needs in their first academic year.

VI. Early Start Program

A. The Early Start Program serves CSU admitted freshmen who have not demonstrated proficiency in English and/or mathematics/quantitative reasoning as established by CSU.

B. For summer 2018, campuses may continue to offer Early Start Program courses as established under Executive Order 1048 and/or may offer pilot credit-bearing baccalaureate courses.

C. Effective summer 2019, Early Start Programs shall offer primarily baccalaureate credit-bearing general education written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses, and those courses shall be offered in sufficient numbers to meet student demand. Instructional content considered pre-baccalaureate will carry a maximum of two units and shall be offered concurrently with a college-level, baccalaureate credit-bearing course.

D. Early Start Program participation is required for students needing skills development, as determined by systemwide placement standards. Students needing skills development in both general education written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning shall be required to enroll in a written communication or mathematics/quantitative reasoning course but not both during the Early Start Program.

E. Students required to participate in the Early Start Program may choose to participate at any CSU campus. CSU campuses may partner with California community colleges in the development and offering of Early Start Program courses. Baccalaureate credit earned and general education requirements completed through the Early Start Program shall seamlessly transfer to all CSU campuses.

F. Campuses may grant student exceptions from required Early Start Program participation, based on extenuating circumstances.
G. Early Start Program fees shall be determined by the Office of the Chancellor. Financial aid shall be available for qualifying students who are required to participate in the Early Start Program.

Timothy P. White, Chancellor

Dated: August 2, 2017