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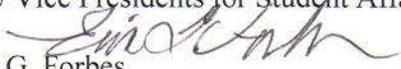
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## MEMORANDUM

**Coded: AA-2012-15**

**Date:** September 7, 2012

**To:** CSU Provosts and Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs  
CSU Vice Presidents for Student Affairs

**From:**   
Eric G. Forbes  
Assistant Vice Chancellor

**Subject:** Updates to Early Assessment Program (EAP)

### Background

The Early Assessment Program (EAP) is a collaborative statewide initiative between the California State University (CSU), California Department of Education (CDE), and the California State Board of Education (SBE). The EAP test augments the California Standards Test (CST) offered to students in 11<sup>th</sup> grade to determine their college readiness in English and mathematics. Currently, that determination is made based on student performance on a brief set of extra test questions along with the regular state assessment of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students through the STAR program. This augmentation has been necessary because the existing student assessment does not fully align with the CSU placement standards, and does not include an assessment of student writing.

### New EAP Status

Based upon the successful pilot projects in 2011-2012, a conditional score value will be available to 2012 EAP English test takers. Currently, we only use exempt and non-exempt. The new category of conditional exemption, Exempt in English – Conditional, provides an exemption from taking the English Placement Test (EPT) based on completion of an approved English course in the senior year. This status allows a student to be placed in credit-bearing courses once enrolled at the California State University (CSU). As with the math conditional status, students who earn an English conditional status **are not** required to participate in Early Start English.

### Satisfying the Condition for an Exemption in English

Conditionally exempt students must take a full year of an approved English course in their senior year. The approved courses include:

- Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC)\*
- Advanced Placement (AP) English Language and Composition \*\*
- Advanced Placement (AP) English Literature and Composition \*\*

#### CSU Campuses

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Northridge • Pomona • Sacramento • San Bernardino • San Diego • San Francisco • San José • San Luis Obispo • San Marcos • Sonoma • Stanislaus

- International Baccalaureate (IB) English\*\*
- English courses approved for honors credit by the University of California (so indicated on the UC Doorways “a-g” course list with a ☆)

Conditionally exempt students who do not enroll in one of the approved English courses, or who do not do not earn a grade of “C” or higher in both semesters of an approved course, will not satisfy the exemption requirement. These students will be required to take the EPT upon admission to the CSU.

### **EAP Participation by California Community Colleges**

Individual California Community Colleges determine whether or not the EAP may be accepted as an exemption to their placement exams. More information is available on the CCC official EAP website at: [extranet.cccco.edu/Divisions/StudentServices/EAP.aspx](http://extranet.cccco.edu/Divisions/StudentServices/EAP.aspx).

### **Change to EAP Test Score Values**

EAP tests administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) are scored on a numeric basis; however, the CSU has previously requested a conversion of these values to alpha characters by XAP, the vendor responsible for CSUMentor applications. Effective with scores from the spring 2012 EAP administration, XAP will **no longer** convert the original EAP numeric score values to alpha values. Reported values will be one (1) through five (5) and correspond to the fields listed in the 2011 ERS Data Element Dictionary (EAP Mathematics Status and EAP English Language Arts status). While the ERS DED was updated at that time, 2012 scores will represent the first implementation of this change.

ETS will provide official 2012 score data to XAP in September 2012. It is anticipated that a test file will be provided to campuses by XAP so they can enter corresponding sample applications for admission in the CSU Mentor beta site by mid-September for testing. Campuses will receive official EAP scores for 2012 test-takers in the numeric score format when the EAP score files are downloaded for fall 2013 applicants beginning in October 2012.

### **California Adoption of the Common Core State Standards, California K-12 Assessment and the Impact on EAP**

With the California adoption of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), a new system of student assessment will be designed by the Smarter Balanced Consortium, to be implemented in 2014. As a result, the EAP basis for assessment will also need modification. The CSU plans to work closely with the California Department of Education and with the Smarter Balanced staff to ensure that the new assessment for 11th grade students is more closely aligned with CSU placement standards. If a tighter alignment is achieved, it is possible that students will no longer need to volunteer to complete the supplemental items as has been needed in the past. Instead, the CSU will be able to determine the level of college readiness by consideration of scores on the assessment developed by Smarter Balanced without the augmented items.

The CSU Early Assessment Program will continue to provide an early signal of college readiness to rising high school seniors, allowing their better and more productive use of their senior year to gain proficiency if needed.

\*ERWC must be in an approved format.

\*\*Scores on AP and/or IB exams are not required to meet the condition.

Questions concerning the matters addressed here may be referred to Carolina Cardenas, Associate Director of Outreach and Early Assessment Programs at [ccardenas@calstate.edu](mailto:ccardenas@calstate.edu) / (562) 951-4724 or Nathan Evans, Director of Enrollment Management Services at [nevans@calstate.edu](mailto:nevans@calstate.edu) / (562) 951-4726.

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Attachments

- c: Chancellor Charles B. Reed
- Dr. Ephraim Smith, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer
- Dr. Ron Vogel, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
- Dr. Beverly Young, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
- Dr. Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Research and Resources
- Ms. Carolina Cardenas, Associate Director of Outreach and Early Assessment Programs
- Mr. Nathan Evans, Director of Enrollment Management Services
- Early Assessment Program Coordinators
- Directors of Admissions and Records
- Directors of Institutional Research
- State University Registrars