

AB 705 FAQ
Last Updated: October 11, 2019

1. What is AB 705?

Assembly Bill (AB) 705, signed by the Governor on October 13, 2017, requires that a community college district or college maximize the probability that a student will enter and complete transfer-level coursework in English and math within a one-year time frame and use, in the placement of students into English and math courses, one or more of the following: high school coursework, high school grades, and high school grade point average. Further, this bill requires that a community college district or college maximize the probability that a student enrolled in English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) instruction will enter and complete degree and transfer requirements in English within a time frame of three years. AB 705 represents a significant change in the way students are placed. Students may be eligible to enroll in transfer-level math or English classes with additional support.

2. Do we still offer the English and Math placement tests?

No, the English and Math placement tests were eliminated effective February 2019. Students who previously tested into levels below English 1A are eligible for English 1A+1AS. Students who previously tested into levels below transfer-level math are eligible for Math 70, Math 80+80S, and Math 90+90S.

3. Can students still take the credit ESL Placement Test?

Yes, the credit ESL test is still being offered in 2019-20. The State Chancellor's Office allows us to continue to use the current credit ESL placement test through the Summer/Fall 2020 registration cycle. More guidance will be released regarding the continuous use beyond Fall 2020.

4. Are all students eligible for English 1A?

Based on a student's unweighted high school GPA, they are eligible for either English 1A or for English 1A+1AS. Students eligible for English 1A+1AS need to take the corequisite (English 1AS) concurrently with English 1A.

5. Are all students eligible for Math 80 (Statistics) or Math 90 (Precalculus Algebra)?

Based on a student's unweighted high school GPA and their highest level math course taken and/or passed, a student may be eligible for Math 80 or Math 80+80S or Math 90 or Math 90+90S. Students with 80+80S must take the corequisite (Math 80S) concurrently with Math 80. Students with 90+80S must take the corequisite (Math 80S) concurrently with Math 80. All students who have been assessed are eligible for Math 70.

6. Are students allowed to challenge their placements?

Yes, all students may challenge their placements with the English or Math Departments.

7. Can counselors modify the students' course placement and move students into a higher level course?

No. Counselors **cannot** modify students' course placements. Students may see an English or Math faculty advisor for course modification or prerequisite challenge.

8. Does AB 705 give ESL students the right to take 1A no matter what level of ESL placement they have or ESL course they have completed?

English as a second language (ESL) is not basic skills or remedial instruction; it is foreign language acquisition. Students are informed of their right to access transfer-level English composition and credit ESL. AB 705 does not require colleges to place all English language learners (ELLs) into transfer-level English composition. Thus, not all ESL students with ESL placement levels are automatically eligible for English 1A or English 1A+1AS. These students may submit a [high school data form](#) to receive English level placement using their high school transcript data.

9. What if a student did not graduate from high school or graduated from an international high school?

Students who graduated from an international high school, received a GED or other high school equivalency, or did not finish high school will be eligible for transfer level courses with the corequisite (ENGL 1A+1AS, Math 80+80S, Math 90+90S) and they may challenge their placement with the English or Math Department.

10. Can students use self-reported high school performance data for English and Math placement?

Yes. If students are unable to obtain their high school transcripts, they may use self-reported data. If a student already has placements based on verified data, they must submit a copy of their transcripts to revise their placement.

11. What are the ways for students to submit their high school data for placement?

- a. Students must answer the questions in the CCCApply Credit Admissions application about their high school performance.
- b. Students may submit the [High School Data Form](#), using either verified and self-reported data. If available, the student should attach a copy of their high school transcript. For more information, please visit www.ccsf.edu/highschooldata.

12. What are other options available for students to receive placements?

- a. Students who have completed English or math coursework at another college, or have taken SAT, ACT, or AP scores, should submit a [College and/or Test Data Form](#). Students should submit supporting documents, such as transcripts and/or test scores. For more information, please visit www.ccsf.edu/collegedata.

- b. Students may submit a [Prerequisite Challenge Form](#). For more information, please visit www.ccsf.edu/prereqchallenge.

13. Will all pre-transfer Math and English courses be eliminated?

Pre-transfer level math and English courses will continue to be offered for students who feel they need more preparatory coursework and it is the students' decision to choose these pre-transfer level English and Math coursework.

14. Does AB705 remove all English and Math prerequisites?

AB 705 does not remove all English and math prerequisites. In accordance with Title 5 regulations, the college will continue to enforce prerequisites. In order to be eligible for classes, students must complete the assessment process with the Office of Matriculation and Assessment.

15. How come some students are still being blocked from registering for English and math courses?

There are several reasons students are receiving a prerequisite error message:

- The student has not completed assessment.
- The student is trying to register for a course level that is higher than their placement. For example, a student with ENGL 1A+1AS placement will be blocked if the student is trying to add a section of ENGL 1A class without the corequisite.
- The student is adding the wrong linked English and Math corequisites. For example, a student tries to add section S12 of ENGL 1A and section S19 of ENGL 1AS.
- The student is not adding the linked sections at the same time.

Students may contact the Matriculation Office for further assistance.

16. What if a student has a placement from the previous ESL course sequence?

The curriculum Committee approved all the following equivalent courses. If students have further questions, please refer them to see a counselor or speak with the ESL Faculty Adviser, Marianne Etlinger at 415-239-3405 or email metlinger@ccsf.edu.

ESL 130 = ESL 182

ESL 140 = ESL 184

ESL 150 = ESL 186

ESL 160 = ESL 188