



on-PAR!

ACCUPLACER

PLANNING, ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH: THE INFORMATION GATEWAY

ACCUPLACER RESULTS

• College Board Accuplacer scores were used to place new Fall 2008 incoming freshman students in first-semester math and English courses in accordance with score ranges developed in a cut score study. Recent analysis reveals that Accuplacer scores were not valid predictors of successful performance (grade C or better) in "placed" courses. Therefore, use of Accuplacer scores for math or English placement is discontinued.

PLACEMENT OVERRIDING IN MATH COURSES

• Students placed in a math course higher than indicated by the cut score schema were more than twice as likely to experience unsuccessful course outcome (F,D,W,I). Effects of placement overriding are graphically shown in the accompanying chart where failure rates in math courses are substantially higher for students placed in courses above their cut score indicator. Placement by override was clearly detrimental to student success. More than half of all override placements occurred for Engineering majors.

ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT MEASURES

• An interdisciplinary study group is developing other placement measures for first-semester math and English courses for Fall 2009 freshman students. Other variables may include SAT Math, SAT Writing, and High School Grade Point Average scores, alone or in combination.

Placement Overrides = Higher Failure

