

**Frequently Asked Questions about the 2012 Basic Skills Assessment Survey**  
**Revised May 3, 2012**

If you need more clarification about any of these questions, please e-mail us at [arcc@cccco.edu](mailto:arcc@cccco.edu).

**1. How can I access the survey?**

Survey Link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/V9P8PFY>

A PDF version of the survey is available at:

<http://extranet.cccco.edu/Portals/1/TRIS/Research/Accountability/Basic%20Skills/2012/Survey.pdf>

**2. What legislation required the Basic Skills Assessment Survey?**

AB 194 (Chapter 489, Statutes of 2007) requires the California Community College Chancellor's Office to gather performance data for basic skills assessment and achievement. The survey is part of this data collection effort.

**3. Who will receive the Basic Skills report?**

The Chancellor's Office will give the report to the Governor's Office, the Department of Finance, and the Legislative Analyst's Office.

**4. How will the survey results be reported?**

At this point, only the survey results aggregated to the statewide level will be shared.

**5. Will this report be part of ARCC?**

This framework is separate from the regular ARCC report. You do not need to share this survey with your Board of Trustees. The Governor, Legislative Analyst's Office, and Department of Finance are the main audience and will use this data for internal decision making.

**6. How long do I have to complete the survey?**

The survey must be completed and submitted **BEFORE 5:00 PM on Friday, May 25, 2012.**

**7. If I'm in a multi-college district, do I need to complete one survey for each college?**

Yes, please complete one survey for each college.

**8. Do you want data based on enrollments? What about first-time freshmen?**

Because we are NOT asking for any enrollment data for this survey, you do not need to provide any enrollment data, so you **do not** need to identify students who are first-time freshmen. We are only interested in the assessment results for those that assessed for the Fall 2010 term at your college. If they enrolled, or the level at which they enrolled, is immaterial.

**9. Why are you requesting Fall 2010 data?**

We anticipate that these will be the most recent data on assessments that will also be stable. In last year's survey we asked for data on Fall 2009 assessments (based on input from researchers at the colleges), so this is a natural progression.

**10. What timeframe do you want us to use to define Fall 2010?**

Because colleges have different timeframes for assessment, we are letting the colleges define this locally. Question 2 on the 2012 survey asks that you specify the timeframe for assessments. Because the analysis uses rates (percentages) rather than counts, we presume that the length of the timeframe will not bias the data.

Table C1 below is an excerpt from the 2010 report, and it shows how we emphasize the distribution (the percentage) of the assessment level rather than the counts per assessment level. We primarily want to see the proportion of students that will need remediation before they can progress to transfer.

**Table C1: Percentage of Credit and Noncredit Assessments  
in Mathematics Levels (Fall 2008)**

Discipline: Mathematics	Percent of Credit and Noncredit Assessments for Fall 2008 (N=368,886)
Assessed at:	
Transfer/College Level	15.5%
1 Level Below Transfer	18.4%
2 Levels Below Transfer	27.2%
3 Levels Below Transfer	20.6%
4 Levels Below Transfer	16.2%
5 Levels Below Transfer	1.7%
6 Levels Below Transfer	0.4%

**11. Are you referring to applicants for Fall 2010?**

We are not asking you to check for enrollment status, so we are looking for the students who took their assessment test(s) in the timeframe your college used for Fall 2010.

**12. What if a course (e.g., Intermediate Algebra) is not transfer-level, but degree-applicable? Where should I count these students on the survey?**

These types of courses should not be counted according to course status (CB04 and CB05); instead the data should use the latest version of data element CB 21, Course-Prior-To-Transfer-Level. CB 21 definitions can be found at:

<http://www.cccco.edu/Portals/4/TRIS/MIS/RightNav/DED/DataElmnts/CB/cb21.pdf>

**13. Our placements occur on an ongoing basis, so would an assessment test taken months ago still count? We don't ask students what time period they are enrolling for.**

We are really asking for numbers of assessments, but some colleges have told us they cannot separate counts for assessments from placements. Hence, the assessment/placement could count if you considered it valid for Fall 2010. We are letting the colleges define "Fall 2010" locally because the assessment timeframes differ from college to college. Just note the dates used for your assessment timeframe in Question 2 on the survey.

**14. Should we include both credit and noncredit assessments?**

Yes, please include both.

**15. Should we include retests?**

No, please exclude retests if at all possible.

**16. What do you want us to do about retests? Our tests expire after two years. Do you want us to check the student's entire history?**

Please provide the results of the earliest (first) assessment test that was valid for Fall 2010.

**17. If our college uses different math assessment tests, do you want the ultimate placement recommendation?**

Yes, please provide the placement recommendation.

**18. At our college, a student may assess on the border between two different math courses (e.g., beginning and intermediate algebra). The counselors provide the student with a "decision zone." They can take either course. Based on the counselor's review of prior coursework or transcripts, the counselor may recommend the higher or lower level course. What level should we report?**

Report the highest level possible that the student can take and note this in question 9 at the end of the survey.

**19. What if we don't have data on multiple measures available?**

If you have data using only single assessment procedures, that's fine. If your assessments did not use multiple measures, just report what you have. If you used multiple measures along with the assessment scores and cannot provide information based on assessments alone, report the results based on the multiple measures.

**20. What do we enter at a level for which we don't assess? For example, in English we assess at "two levels below" but not at "three levels below" or "four levels below." Is this also a '9999' value?**

This is a '9999' value because no assessments for these levels within a discipline ever took place.

**21. We have no courses for ESL at the transfer level. What do we enter?**

If you have no courses for ESL at the transfer level, enter 9999.

**22. What if my college's ESL placement is not split out? I cannot provide you information separately by ESL Reading and ESL Writing.**

Place the same totals in each category since your students probably assess into the same level of both. Then note in question 9 that your ESL assessments are not split out.

**23. My college assesses ESL in several areas like writing, reading comprehension, and listening. The survey asks only about Writing ESL, Reading ESL, and Integrated ESL assessments. How do I answer?**

We recognize the variety of ESL assessments across our colleges and we could develop an entire survey around ESL alone, but ESL is only part of this survey. CCC ESL experts informed us that writing and reading are among the most frequently assessed areas for ESL. Thus we include those two sub-areas to try to obtain accurate counts for ESL assessments to the extent possible. We have also included a question for Integrated ESL to reflect the new CB21 Coding. We have tried to reflect the latest CB21 coding wherever possible for all disciplines. Please provide whatever ESL data you have and use the open-ended question at the end (Question 9) to clarify your ESL responses.

**24. Will the open-ended information in question 9 (open-ended question) be published anywhere?**

No, we will not publish the results from question 9 anywhere. They are for our own reference and are technical notes to the data (or other comments). Your comments should help us to modify future surveys. The survey is only a small portion of the larger Basic Skills Accountability Framework and is the one piece we cannot obtain from the Chancellor's Office Management Information System.

**25. Can I change my answers after I've submitted the survey?**

Yes. To save your answers, you need to click on the "Prev" or "Next" buttons. If you exit the survey before it is complete, or need to change your responses after you submit the survey, you

may access the survey again to update your responses as long as you do so on the same computer you used for initial survey entry. You can update responses until 5:00 p.m. on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

**26. Can I print my responses to the survey?**

To print your responses, please print each survey page individually (prior to clicking on "Prev" and "Next"), using your web browser's "print" feature.

**27. Can I make changes or edits to my survey once I submit it?**

Yes, you can make changes up until the due date of the survey (5:00 p.m. on May 25, 2012 ) as long as you do so on the same computer where you first responded to the survey.