



Type of Placement Measure Review and Approval Decision Tree ***English as a Second Language***

This document is a supplemental resource for California community colleges, to identify differences between English as a Second Language (ESL) guided placement or self-placement measures and placement tests.

The table below, titled, *Type of Placement Measure Review and Approval Decision Tree: English as a Second Language (ESL)*, defines each type of placement measure, and provides brief guidance on whether the placement measure requires Chancellor's Office approval, as well as suggested resources.

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Type of Placement Measure Review and Approval Decision Tree: English as a Second Language (ESL)

Type of Placement Measure	Definition of the Placement Measure	Requires Chancellor's Office Review and Approval?
Guided Placement (GP) or Self Placement (SP)	<p>Guided Placement (GP): A process or tool used to prompt a student to <u>reflect</u> on their academic history and educational goals that may include the student evaluating their familiarity and comfort with topics in English or mathematics (or ESL). After completing the process, students receive their course placement.</p> <p>Self-Placement (SP): A process in which a student chooses their placement after consideration of some form of self-reflection and other relevant factors.</p> <p>Examples include: questionnaires about academic experiences, reviewing course information, or student work samples from courses.</p> <p>GP/SP measures differ from placement tests because students are asked to reflect on their skills and provided with information about courses to inform their placement decision.</p>	<p>No. Instead, colleges should conduct a self-review of their GP/SP measures.</p> <p>Colleges may find the Reviewing English as a Second Language (ESL) Guided Placement or Self-Placement Processes (Jun 2025) (PDF) supplemental resource helpful in planning a self-review of these measures.</p>

Type of Placement Measure	Definition of the Placement Measure	Requires Chancellor's Office Review and Approval?
Placement Test, Assessment, or Instrument	<p>Skills assessment that incorporates sample problems or assignments, assessment instruments, or tests to request students to solve problems, answer curricular questions, present demonstrations/examples of course work designed to show knowledge or mastery of prerequisite skills, or demonstrate skills through tests or surveys.</p> <p>Examples include: standardized tests, scored written responses, or other assessments developed by the college that ask students to demonstrate their skills.</p> <p>Placement tests differ from GP/SP measures because students are asked to demonstrate their skills, and the scoring of that performance is standardized to inform course placement recommendations/ requirements.</p> <p>If the information collected from a GP or SP measure is scored and combined numerically for use in placement decisions, the GP or SP measure is utilized more like an assessment and would require the Chancellor's Office review and approval.</p>	<p>Yes. Submit an application with all the required materials and evidence according to the 2022 Standards for Assessment Instrument Review: English as a Second Language (PDF).</p> <p>Colleges may find the training materials and resources provided on the Chancellor's Office Assessment Advisory web page helpful in putting together an application for review.</p>

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Refer to the Chancellor's Office Assessment Advisory [web page](#) for additional resources.

Please direct inquiries to the Chancellor's Office Assessment Advisory Team at assessmentadvisory@cccco.edu