

South Dakota Board of Regents

University English Placement Process for Fall 1999

Each regental university's Fall 1999 English placement process is described below. The contact persons can answer questions and provide additional information.

Black Hills State University

*Contact: Dr. Ronnie Theisz, 642-6247
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All freshman and transfers who have not taken their English Composition courses currently take a placement writing test before they register for courses. Writing samples are holistically graded by faculty. Students placing below the cut-off score are placed into English 010, Basic Composition; students who achieve the top scores (six from both readers), are guided into English 102 Written Communication II and will then also take English 383 Advanced Composition to fulfill their mandated six hours of composition; the majority of students who place in-between register for English 101 Written Communication I.

Dakota State University

*Contact: Dr. Eric Johnson
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All incoming, degree-seeking students, except those who have completed coursework equivalent to the general education requirements or equivalent exams such as AP, CLEP or DAN TES, will be placed in English composition courses based on a holistic grading of a writing sample. Faculty grade this sample according to a uniform methodology that has been agreed upon by English faculty at all regental universities.

Northern State University

*Contact: Patrick J. Whiteley, 626-2241
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The exam assesses writing, critical thinking and reading skills. It consists of a 500-750 word passage and a topic prompt. Students have 90 minutes to read, plan, and compose a persuasive essay. The main point of the passage must be summarized or paraphrased, and the students must argue for or against it, using examples and clear and consistent reasoning. The essays are read holistically by trained faculty. Students who excel may pass out of the first composition class, ENGL 101. Students with deficiencies are assigned a tutorial class concurrent with ENGL 101. The exam must be taken before registering for ENGL 101 Composition.

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology

*Contact: Dr. Sue Shirley, 394-2482
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All freshman students at SDSM&T will be registered in English 101. A placement test consisting of a timed writing sample will be administered in the English 101 classes during the first two weeks of the semester. Students identified as needing additional assistance will be provided with extra tutoring by their instructors and/or referred to the Tech Learning Center. Placement in more advanced SDSM&T English courses will be determined by AP English exam or CLEP results or faculty committee review of previously taken English courses.

South Dakota State University

*Contact: Dr. Marge Hegge, 688-4217
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The Department of English plans to continue to utilize the Advanced Placement examination, and the Freshman College Composition CLEP Exam in placing incoming students in English 101. All entering students will take English 101 with the following exceptions:

1. Students can get credit for English 101 with a score of 6 on the essay English Placement test, which is administered on the first day of English 101 class and scored by two professors.
2. Entering students who took the Advanced Placement English: Language and Composition course in high school and received a score of 3 or higher on the examination. These students will receive credit for English 101.
3. All other incoming students have the opportunity to take the English CLEP exam. If they earn a score of 60 or better, they will receive credit for English 101.

Except for those students receiving credit through the Advanced Placement examination, the student would be assessed a \$7.50 per credit hour recording fee in order to have the credit for English 101 placed on his/her transcript. Students who do not meet one of the three exception criteria listed above are expected to take English 101 for credit during their first year.

To identify students who need additional help with writing, SDSU plans to continue using a diagnostic writing exercise given to all English 101 students during the first week of class. Students identified as being at risk are required to work with tutors in the Writing Center concurrently with English 101.

University of South Dakota

*Contact: Dr. Susan Wolfe, 677-5229
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In Fall 1999, students were required to write a diagnostic essay using prompts. 2 different readers read each essay double-blind. The essays were graded on a 6 point scale. Students who received a combined score of 4 or lower were said to have failed the exam. These students were enrolled in English 101, and were also required to attend 6 one-hour sessions at the Writing Center. Students who received a combined score of 12 tested out of English 101. Those students with a combined score of 6 to 11 were permitted to enroll in either English 101 or 210.