



South Dakota Board of Regents	
Temporary English Placement	
<i>Temporary Policy Exceptions in Response to COVID-19</i>	
Date Issued:	May 20, 2020
Date Revised:	March 29, 2021
Universities:	Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, Northern State University, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, South Dakota State University, University of South Dakota

1. In the absence of access to standardized examinations and placement tools due to the nation’s COVID-19 response, the university system must find alternate methods to ensure placement into student-appropriate English courses.
2. [AAC Guideline 7.6](#) describes English placement procedures. As stated in AAC Guideline 7.6, a placement system enables students to enroll in courses that suit their ability level and background. Students with deficits will receive the remediation they need to progress through the required general education English courses with minimal risk of failure. Other students will be placed into higher-level courses challenging their abilities without overwhelming or boring them. The fit between student ability and course level should increase retention, as students have a greater likelihood of succeeding in courses tailored to their capacity.
3. Universities may use a student’s existing standardized test scores per AAC Guideline 7.6 to determine placement. When such scores are not available, universities may use the modified remote ACCUPLACER testing procedures issued by the College Board to facilitate placement. Universities may also use the procedure identified in Section 4 of this policy for placement or placement challenges as appropriate.
4. Alternate English Placement Procedures, which will apply only if ACCUPLACER testing is not available or at the discretion of the university at which the student is enrolled.
 - a. The university may elect to place a student into the appropriate English course by using the student's letter grade in his or her most recent high school academic year’s English courses. Using this method, placement into ENGL 101 will require a letter grade of B or better in each course. Students with a letter grade of C in any course will follow the procedure set forth in item b. below. Students with a letter grade of D or F in any course will be placed into ENGL 033 or ENGL 032.
 - b. In the case of a student receiving a letter grade of C, or in the absence of a recent English course letter grade, placement may be made with a proctored essay-writing assignment administered by the student’s university of enrollment. This

assignment will be assessed by the university's English program department chair or department chair designee. Assessment will be holistic, with "sufficient" placed in ENGL 101 and "insufficient" placed in ENGL 033 or ENGL 032.

- c. In the case of S/U grading, students receiving a U will follow the procedure outlined in item a. above for D or F grades. Students receiving an S will follow the procedure outlined in item b. above.
5. Students in the state sponsored High School Dual Credit program shall be placed in appropriate English courses according to this temporary policy and relevant sections of [AAC Guideline 7.1](#) and [AAC Guideline 7.6](#).
6. This temporary AAC Guideline will remain in place, wholly or in part, until the Spring 2022 semester unless otherwise extended or revoked by the system Academic Affairs Council.