



**Quick Fact Summary Number 2018-3
Office of Institutional Effectiveness**

**Number and Performance of Students with ACT English Scores Affected by the
Board of Regents New Admissions Standards for Fall 2018**

**Placing Act English Score of 15, 16, and 17 into General Education English
Composition with “Support”**

February 1, 2018

The Dean of Liberal Arts requested information from the Fall 2017 semester on the English ACT score ranges affected by the Board of Regents new Admissions Standards (Academic Affairs Policies 2.18). Specifically, the Board has initiated a pilot program allowing new students with ACT English scores of 15, 16, and 17 into ENGL 1001 (English Composition) with “support”. Prior to the Fall 2018 semester, incoming students needed an 18 ACT English score to enter general education English Composition (ENGL 1001). This is equivalent to ACT’s college readiness for college level work in English Composition. The Dean requested the information to help with planning the Fall 2018 Schedule of Classes when the policy is to be implemented.

First, Table 1 details the number of students in the ACT English score ranges that would typically be developmental education students attending in Fall 2017. Effective Fall 2018, students with ACT English score of 15, 16, and 17 will be permitted to take college level English Composition. According to Table 1, this will affect 164 new first-time students. The remaining 182 students will continue to take their developmental courses.¹

Table 1. Fall 2017 ACT English Scores.²

| English ACT Subscore | Number of First-Time Students | Total Number of Students |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| No Scores | 88 | 901 |
| 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 7 | 0 | 2 |
| 8 | 3 | 3 |
| 9 | 3 | 8 |
| 10 | 12 | 23 |
| 11 | 16 | 35 |
| 12 | 53 | 36 |
| 13 | 23 | 42 |
| 14 | 48 | 103 |
| 15 | 75 | 147 |
| 16 | 48 | 111 |
| 17 | 41 | 88 |
| Total | 410 | 1501 |
| Total 15-17 | 164 | 346 |

¹ The 182 students are from 346 (all students) – 164 (new first-time students).

² Students with the classification of “PR” (Preparatory) were excluded from the analysis since they fall under Academic Affairs Policy 2.22.

Next, the probability of success in general education English Composition was examined in terms of how students with a 15, 16, and 17 ACT English score did in their Fall 2017 developmental English course. While this is not the best predictive method, it does provide some information in that students who are not successful in the developmental English Composition (ENGL 0001) course will likely not succeed in general education English Composition (ENGL 1001).

As Table 2 indicates, just over three-fourths (76.5%) of the students with an ACT English score of 15 succeeded in the developmental English course. Students with a 16 or 17 ACT English score did somewhat better succeeding at a rate better than 80% in developmental English Composition leading to an overall success rate of 80.3%.

Table 2. Fall 2017 developmental course success statistics by ACT English score for first-time students.

| ACT Score | ENGL 0001 | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | N Success | Overall N | % Success |
| 15 | 52 | 68 | 76.5 |
| 16 | 33 | 40 | 82.5 |
| 17 | 29 | 34 | 85.3 |
| Total | 114 | 142 | 80.3 |

The data presented suggests that students enter with some general knowledge of English Composition given the success rates from Fall 2017. Given the data and the change in Academic Affairs Policy 2.18, students entering directly into English Composition might have relative success with the “right support”. The issue may be determining the “right support” or having students taking advantage of that “support”.

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