



## Placement Assessment Announcement

December 5, 2011

To assist colleges with the validation of assessment instruments, the Chancellor's Office has reinstated the review of assessment instruments for approval for use in college English, mathematics, and ESL placement processes. This is the opportunity to renew approval of instruments whose previous approval have expired (or are about to expire) and to receive initial approval of new locally-developed/managed tests. The current list of CCCCO-approved assessment instruments is attached.

Second-party publishers are expected to renew approval of their tests as needed to maintain their approval status. Therefore, publishers of second-party tests that have expired or are about to expire should submit all necessary documentation by April 13, 2012.

Colleges using second- party published instruments should continue to conduct the required local studies but do not need to submit them.

In 2009/10, AB X4 2 authorized categorical flexibility for specific categorical programs, including Matriculation. As a result, from 2009 through 2011, the Assessment Workgroup, the entity responsible for leading the assessment validation process was not convened. Thus, from 2009 to 2011, if an assessment validation review was due, it did not occur. Consequently, given this unique circumstance, the Chancellor's Office is making an exception to its validation process and will consider any college's assessment instrument that expired between March 1, 2009, and April 12, 2012, as a "renewal" instead of a "new" submission. The renewal paperwork must be submitted to the Chancellor's Office by April 13, 2012. For colleges that have triggered categorical flexibility, the review process and ability to receive psychometric feedback on validation results is being offered as a service to support colleges in meeting accreditation standards. For colleges not able to submit documents for the April 13, 2012 submission deadline, there will be a second date in fall 2012.

## Background

Section 55542 of title 5 requires the Chancellors office to establish and update a list of approved assessment instruments as well as guidelines for their use. Further, the CCCCO is required to ensure that assessment instruments minimize or eliminate cultural or linguistic bias, are normed on the appropriate populations, yield valid and reliable information.

## Assessment Validation Standards

Consult the *Standards, Policies, and Procedures for the Evaluation of Assessment Instruments Used in California Community Colleges* (4<sup>th</sup> Edition, revised March 2001) (<http://www.cccco.edu/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ubGoW34y0Mo%3d&tabid=628&mid=1719>) to determine which studies are expected to be conducted and for which evidence must be provided.

If your district triggered categorical flexibility, your college is not required to use a CCCCO-approved assessment instrument; however, it is sound educational and assessment practice to regularly evaluate the appropriateness of those instruments. Therefore, the Chancellor's Office encourages colleges to submit test validation documents even if your college has triggered flexibility. Please be aware that the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation standards include the use of valid placement instruments.

## AB 743 – Common Assessment

The Governor signed AB 743 which requires the board to establish a common assessment system with specified objectives, including selection of an existing commercially available and centrally delivered system of student assessment, to be used as one of multiple measures, consistent with specified law, for the purposes of community college placement and advisement. AB 743 does not contain a mandate for community colleges to participate in the common assessment system. During the development of a common assessment system described in AB 743 colleges will continue to use various assessments for placement and through the assessment validation review process the Chancellor's Office will continue to ensure those assessments are valid, provide reliable information, and minimize or eliminate cultural or linguistic bias. Once CCCAssess becomes available, colleges will be able to determine whether to continue to use locally adopted validated assessments or move to centralized assessment.

### Submit documentation by April 13, 2012 directly to:

*\*Fall 2012 submission date to be determined.*

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Materials will be reviewed during the month of June, and the updated list of CCCCO-approved instruments will be published at the end of July 2012.

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