

## **Review of Reading and Course Credit Issues**

### **Reading Competency**

Over time, several related items have contributed to the College's Reading Competency Requirement which has complicated the interpretation and implementation.

Three Senate resolutions were passed establishing the Reading Competency Requirement

- **Academic Senate Resolution 04-09 "Reading Competency for AA & AS Degrees." Passed AMAC November 10, 2004**
  - LERN (READ) faculty will develop a Reading Competency Test and will develop and **implement a research-based evaluation protocol to assess its efficacy**
  - Reading Competency will become effective with the 2005-06 catalog
  - Option 1 to meet the Reading Competency Requirement is a satisfactory score on the Degrees of Reading Power (DRP) qualifying the student for READ 100 at the time of initial placement
  - Option 2 is a "satisfactory score on the Reading Competency Test"
  - Option 3 is the successful completion of READ 90
  - Option 4 is the successful completion of READ 100
  - Option 5 is the successful completion of AMLA 54
- **Academic Senate Resolution 2010-08 "Reading Competency Modification." Accepted at AMAC October 25, 2010.** Clarifies that "ANY" of the following will be sufficient to meet the reading competency requirement:
  - A score that qualifies the student for READ 100 at the time of initial placement
  - A satisfactory score on the Reading Competency Test
  - Successful completion of READ 90
  - Successful completion of READ 100
  - Successful completion of AMLA 33R
  - Possession of a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited post-secondary institution where English is the primary language of instruction
- **Academic Senate Resolution 2014-04 "Clarification and Support of Reading Competency." Approved at AMAC June 9, 2014, with agreed further follow-up:**
  - Continue a Reading Competency Requirement for graduation met by completion of READ 90 or AMLA 33R or the equivalent as evidenced by eligibility for READ 100 from the DRP or by successful completion of the Reading Competency Test or possession of a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited post-secondary institution; reaffirms primacy of reading faculty in determining reading competency as it aligns with policy and regulatory requirements
  - Strongly recommends accurate and consistent practices in applying reading competency standards
  - Directs the Outcomes Committee to study and review the outcomes standards in reading competency and make recommendations for implementation in consult with reading faculty

## College Board Policies and Administrative Procedures only cover some of the elements contained in the Senate Resolutions

- **BP 4025 “Philosophy and Criteria for Associate Degree and General Education” and BP 4100 “Graduation Requirements for Degrees and Certificates and AP 4100 “Graduation Requirements for Degrees and Certificates”**  
do NOT detail the reading requirement with respect to the 5 options or the passage of the DRP “at the time of initial placement.” BP 4025 references “orally and in writing” but does not mention reading per se.  
AP 4100 states that the college catalog and schedule of classes contain the most recent information regarding requirements.
- **AP 4270 “Use of General Education Courses Completed at Other Accredited Institutions”**
  - *The reading course accepted must be determined to be equivalent of Reading 90, Preparing for College Reading, or higher*
  - If a student has an Associate Degree from another accredited college, Mt. SAC still requires the student to meet the reading requirement.
- **AP 4280 “Use of Baccalaureate or Higher Degree to Waive Associate Requirements”**
  - *Students who have earned a baccalaureate degree or higher degree **from the University of California or the California State University** shall be deemed to have satisfied all General Education requirements and shall also have the Physical Well-Being requirement waived. All other requirements for the Associate Degree remain in effect.*
  - This AP does NOT specifically waive the Reading Requirement
  - This AP only refers to public universities in California (UC and CSU) and excludes other baccalaureate institutions

The **College Catalog** does specify “initial placement” indicating that the student may not re-test

- **College Catalog Reading Requirement**
  - *This requirement may also be met by completing one of the following with a grade of “C” or better:*
  - *READ 90 Preparing for College Reading*
  - *AMLA 33R American Language Advanced Reading*
  - *Or obtaining placement into READ 100 on initial Reading Placement exam*
  - *Or obtaining a satisfactory score on the Reading Competency Test*

Interpretation of the inappropriate use of the DRP as a placement tool AND as a competency tool

- **Title 5 55521 – Prohibited Practices** has a statement:
  - *(2) use any assessment instrument in a manner or for a purpose other than for which it was developed or has been otherwise validated.*
  - This section is based on the implementation of matriculation services related to assessment instruments. It does not differentiate for competency assessments.

## Pass Rates of Reading Competency Requirement

- Pass rates from 2006-13:
  - 83 students took the test
  - 3 students passed
  - 4% pass rate over 7 years

### **Remaining Issues**

- Clarify the re-test application for the reading requirement in the current catalog for 2014-15 and all other publications
- Consider revising AP 4280 – Use of Baccalaureate or Higher Degree to Waive Associate Requirements to add Reading Competency to be waived and to include other accredited colleges and universities (in addition to CSU and UC).
- Consider revising either AP 4280 or AP 4270 –Use of General Education Courses Completed at Other Accredited Institutions to accept the completion of an associate degree to waive the reading requirement.
- Determine the efficacy and viability of the Reading Competency Test when the pass rate indicates a lack of validity of the instrument based on very few students taking (83) and passing the test (4%) to meet the requirement. If the decision is to continue to use a Reading Competency test, undertake validation of the Reading Competency Test as was originally directed in Senate Resolution 04-09.

