

Composition Placement Guidelines

The table below illustrates CSU's Composition Placement procedures. Choose the scenario that best describes your situation from the choices in the left column, then see the right column to learn what your placement procedures is.

NOTE: If you have taken more than one test (e.g., ACT and SAT) we look at the highest scores to determine placement.

Scenario	Placement Procedure
I have AP or IB Scores	<p>AP scores of 4 or 5 on English Literature OR scores of 3, 4, or 5 on English Language earn you CO130 and/or CO150 credit. See the Registrar's Office for more details.</p> <p>IB scores of 4, 5, 6, or 7 on Literature/Language & Literature tests may earn you CO130 or CO150 credit. See the Registrar's Office for more details.</p>
I have credit for CO130	<p>Group 1: Automatic Placement in CO150 College Composition</p> <p>Students who wish to challenge this placement and attempt to test out of CO150 may write the Composition Placement Challenge and Re-evaluation Essay.</p>
<p>I have ACT or SAT scores in the following range:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Composite score 26+ • SAT Evidence-Based Reading/Writing score 620+ • SAT Verbal/Critical Reading score, 570+ 	<p>Group 1: Automatic Placement in CO150 College Composition</p> <p>Students who wish to challenge this placement and attempt to test out of CO150 may write the Composition Placement Challenge and Re-evaluation Essay.</p>
<p>I have ACT or SAT scores in the following range:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Composite score 18-25 • SAT Evidence-Based Reading/Writing score 471-619 • SAT Verbal/Critical Reading score 431-569 	<p>Group 2: Complete the Directed Self-Placement (DSP) Survey</p> <p>The Directed Self-Placement (DSP) Survey is designed to help you</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review your critical reading and writing practices and abilities; • understand what will be expected of you in CSU's college-level composition courses; and • decide which composition course—CO130: Academic Writing or CO150: College Composition—is right for you. <p>A link to the DSP can be found on your RAMweb homepage, listed under the heading Registration.</p>
<p>I have ACT or SAT scores in the following range:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Composite score 17 or lower • SAT Evidence-Based Reading/Writing score 470 or lower • SAT Verbal/Critical Reading score 430 or lower 	<p>Group 3: Automatic Placement in CO130</p> <p>We understand that standardized tests don't always fully reflect your scholastic abilities and motivation for success. Writing the Composition Placement Challenge and Re-evaluation Essay is your opportunity to attempt to place directly into CO150, rather than taking CO130.</p>
<p>I have TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE scores in the following range:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOEFL IBT 79+ • TOEFL PBT 550+ • IELTS 6.5+ • PTE score 53+ 	<p>Group 2: Complete the Directed Self-Placement (DSP) Survey</p> <p>The Directed Self-Placement (DSP) Survey is designed to help you</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review your critical reading and writing practices and abilities; • understand what will be expected of you in CSU's college-level composition courses; and • decide which composition course—CO130: Academic Writing or CO150: College Composition—is right for you. <p>A link to the DSP can be found on your RAMweb homepage, listed under the heading Registration.</p>
<p>I have TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE scores in the following range:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOEFL IBT 78 or lower • TOEFL PBT 549 or lower • IELTS 6.4 or lower • PTE score 52 or lower 	<p>Group 3: Automatic Placement in CO130</p> <p>We understand that standardized tests don't always fully reflect your scholastic abilities and motivation for success. Writing the Composition Placement Challenge and Re-evaluation Essay is your opportunity to attempt to place directly into CO150, rather than taking CO130.</p>
<p>I do not have CO130 credit or any of these test scores</p>	<p>Group 2: Complete the Directed Self-Placement (DSP) Survey</p> <p>The Directed Self-Placement (DSP) Survey is designed to help you</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review your critical reading and writing practices and abilities; • understand what will be expected of you in CSU's college-level composition courses; and • decide which composition course—CO130: Academic Writing or CO150: College Composition—is right for you. <p>A link to the DSP can be found on your RAMweb homepage, listed under the heading Registration.</p>