

STATE OF COLORADO



DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

John Hickenlooper
Governor

Lt. Gov. Joseph A. Garcia
Executive Director

Jan. 7, 2014

Contact: Julie Poppen, Communications Officer
303-866-3662 o, 303-941-9367 cell

COMMISSION APPROVES KEY CHANGES TO REMEDIATION POLICY

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education on Dec. 5, 2013, unanimously approved changes to the state's remedial education policy to make it more transparent and flexible with the ultimate aim of boosting student achievement in college.

The revised policy, which will go into effect in fall 2014, will:

- Increase the number of assessment options from ACT or SAT college entrance exam scores and the Accuplacer test to include Compass, PARCC and Smarter Balanced;
- Provide for the use of "supplemental academic instruction," such as a lab, as an alternative to traditional remediation;
- Update the testing timeline. Currently a student's assessment test scores can be used for up to five years since he/she took the assessment. The new policy will allow institutions to use the test scores for three years after the assessment was taken.

State law requires the Colorado Commission on Higher Education to periodically review and revise the Remedial Education Policy. The CCHE appointed a task force to review the policy and make recommendations for changes, an 18-month collaborative process. The policy revision process is yet another example of the state's push to ensure that P-12 and higher education are aligned in both policy and practice.

Remedial education, also called developmental education, refers to classes intended to bolster the basic skills of new college students so they are adequately prepared for college-level work. These classes may be non-credit courses and may not be covered by a student's financial aid. These courses are usually offered by a community college.

The state's goal is to increase the number of students attaining a certificate or degree by supporting institutions in offering high quality academic support to college students – especially those from underrepresented backgrounds – so they can be successful in college.

Need more information? Read this FAQ on remediation in Colorado

(<http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Remedial/material/FAQ%20RemEd-short.pdf>) or see our remedial education web page at <http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Remedial/>. This work was supported by a Core to College Initiative Grant from the Rockefeller Family Fund.