* Process students have to challenge objective/subjective test placement?

In 2016 from January to December 1, 167 immigrants and 159 F-1 students took the placement test. The immigrants were placed into ESOL 90, 92, 94, or ESL 100. The F-1 students were placed into ESOL 94 and ESL 100. A few F-1 were placed into ESOL 02. The F-1 students need to have a TOEFL 500 or equivalent so they come in with a higher level of English.

**Is the writing test evaluated against a standard? How is the standard obtained?**

The standard we use is student success and completion. We also look at persistence and retention.

Every two years, we look at these questions:

How long are students taking the exit ESOL 94?

Students who exit ESOL 94 with a CR+, we get data on how these students did in their foundation courses.

How did they do in ESL or ENG 100?

How did they do in Math?

How did they do in Global Multicultural courses?

We also look at their GPAs and how many completed programs or transferred.

**Have we modified the evaluation of the placement tests as we have evaluated the results?**

All the sections in the program has three writing samples (beginning, mid-term, final) every semester. The writing samples are given an accuracy score (# of accurate sentences/to total # of sentences); a fluency score (# of words); and a complexity score (# of words/# of sentences). The writing samples are also scored for ORGANIZATION, COHESION, and COMPREHENSIBILITY. Each level has a benchmark for each of these areas. At the beginning of each semester the results of the previous semester is discussed and adjustments made to the placement.

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Students can discuss their scores with the coordinator of the ESOL program. The program coordinator discusses their placement test with them and gives advice if they decide to re-take the placement test. If they feel that they can perform better, they can re-take the placement test as many times as they like.

**Are TOEFL exams used for placement?**

TOEFL exams are used for admissions and not for placement. F-1 students need to place in ESOL 94 in order to be able to complete their program in the time given them by their visa. So a TOEFL 500 places students in ESOL 94 so in a way TOEFL is used for initial placement. Students who are place in ESOL 94 based on their TOEFL are told during orientation that they have the option to take the KCC placement test if they feel that their writing is strong. Each semester one or two of these students place into ESL 100.