Assessment Guide for Native and Non-Native Students

**Students who need to take the Compass ESL test and a TSI test prior to their first enrollment at HCC**

You will need to take the Compass ESL exam in addition to a TSI test if English **IS NOT** your first language **AND** one of the following conditions is true:

- You came to the United States and entered an American high school during or after the 9th grade
- You had high school classes where the teacher taught in your native language and English
- You took the TOEFL exam (or other test for English proficiency) and did not pass
- You were exempt from the TAAS/TAKS test in high school based on being classified an ESL student
- When reading for fun (i.e. books, magazines, Internet), you prefer to read in your native language, not English (This may indicate that you are not as comfortable with English)
- The primary language spoken in your home, at work, or with friends is your native language, not English
- You have taken Workforce ESL classes
- You have taken Adult Basic Education ESL or GED ESL classes
- You were advised to enroll or enrolled in Academic ESL or Intensive English courses at another college

**Students who may only need to take a TSI test prior to their first enrollment at HCC**

You do not need to take the Compass ESL exam, and you may only need to take a TSI test if one or more of the following are true:

- English is and continues to be your first language
- You came to the United States and entered an American high school before the 9th grade, graduating from an American English-speaking high school
- You have already earned an associate degree or higher from an accredited United States college or university
- You graduated from an English-speaking high school from one of the following countries: American Samoa, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Canada (except Quebec), Dominica, Grenada, Grand Cayman, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Liberia, New Zealand, Trinidad/Tobago, United Kingdom, U.S. Pacific Trust
- You have an evaluated post-secondary (bachelor's, master's, or doctorate) degree from a college or university in another country whose primary mode of instruction was in English
- You took the TOEFL, IELTS, TOEIC or PTE Academic test within the last three years and passed

**Note:** Passing TOEFL scores are as follows:
- Paper/Pencil Test (PBT): 550
- Computerized Test (CBT): 213
- Internet-Based Test (iBT): 79

Passing IELTS score: 6.5
Passing PTE Academic: 53
Passing TOEIC scores: 731

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Note: All students will be given a writing sample either at the time of testing or during the first week of the semester in order to confirm placement.