

**The Early Assessment Program:
Helping High School Students Meet College Expectations in Mathematics and English
A Joint Program of California State University and California Public Schools**

The Early Assessment Program (EAP) is a collaborative effort among three important state entities in California: California State University (CSU), California Department of Education (CDE), and California State Board of Education (SBE). The goal of this unprecedented partnership is to ensure that college-bound high-school graduates have the English and mathematics skills expected by the state university.

Like most public comprehensive universities, CSU admits students first—and only then tests them to see if they have the reading, writing, and mathematics skills needed for placement in college-level study. If they do not, the students are placed in remedial courses for one or two semesters—thus making the pursuit of a baccalaureate degree more expensive for both the student and the state.

The EAP will allow students, their teachers, their parents, and the CSU to know exactly how well prepared the 11th-graders are for university-level work. Furthermore, it will give high school students a chance to polish their skills before enrolling in college.

The EAP has three components: early testing, the opportunity for additional preparation in the 12th grade, and professional development activities for high school English and mathematics teachers.

The EAP test is embedded in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) 11th-grade English Language Arts/Literacy and mathematics. These tests are part of California's public school testing and accountability system and are required of all grade 11 students. CAASPP exams cover both California high school standards as well as the CSU placement standards. Specified levels of these scores indicate meeting CSU standards.

After 11th-graders take the test, they will be notified whether they have either met the CSU expectations or whether they need additional preparation in order to be successful in college-level work. Those who need extra work will have their entire senior year to prepare further. They can pinpoint individual strengths and weaknesses by using the CSU Diagnostic Writing Service on the web or the Mathematics Diagnostic Testing Project.

Students who need better skills in expository reading and writing can take a specially designed 12th-grade course, developed jointly by teachers from high schools and the university. Additional resources are available on the CSU Success (csusuccess.org) website

Students who need to upgrade their mathematics skills will have access to courses and to other individualized online interactive programs during their senior year. Resources for math may be found on the CSU Success (csusuccess.org) website.

A final component of the EAP is teacher development. CSU teacher-education faculty are sponsoring reading institutes and are developing materials through which high school teachers can improve their skills in helping students to read and write effectively. Over 100 middle school and high school

professional development and awareness sessions are offered annually, involving over 2000 middle school and high school English teachers across California.

What are the benefits of EAP?

- Students get an early signal about their preparedness for college. Those who find that they are not proficient in mathematics or English have their entire senior year to hone those skills.
- California students and families can be sure that required high school standards and tests are meaningful, have consequences, and connect to readiness for college.
- California students and families can be confident that high school standards and college entrance standards are congruent.
- Students who choose to improve their skills in the senior year may be able to bypass any remedial courses.
- Citizens of California can know that the state's resources are being used wisely.