

KEAN UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION (GE) PROGRAM

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❖ Understanding Your Test Results/Course Placements ❖

❖ Individualized Initial Course Placements ❖

Students enter the University with varying skills levels and differing levels of preparedness for college-level coursework. Therefore, each incoming freshman is assessed prior to registration and provided with individualized initial course placements based on criteria such as placement test results and SAT scores. Your individualized course placements tell you:

- which format of *College Composition* you are required to take
- whether any reading courses are required or recommended to help prepare you for reading-intensive college-level coursework
- whether a developmental math course is required to help prepare you for your college-level math coursework
- if you took the CLM test, whether you are eligible to take *Precalculus* or *Calculus*
- and—if you took the Web-CAPE Foreign Language Placement Exam—which level of French, Spanish, or German you should take

❖ Your Reading Course Placement ❖

Your reading course placement is determined by your **Reading Comprehension (RC) score on the placement test**. Kean offers two developmental (non-college-credit) reading courses, CS 0409 (*Basic Reading Skills*) and CS 0412 (*Introduction to Academic Reading*), as well as a college-level reading course, CS 1501 (*College Reading and Study Skills*).

- If your *RC* score is ≤ 56 , you are required to take both developmental reading courses, CS 0409 and CS 0412 (sequentially).
- If your *RC* score is 57–73, you are required to take the second-level developmental course *only* (CS 0412).
- If your *RC* score is in the range of scores considered borderline (74–87), you are strongly encouraged (but not required) to take the college-level reading course, CS 1501.
- If your *RC* score is ≥ 88 or you were exempt from reading testing because your *SAT-Critical Reading/Verbal* score was ≥ 520 , no reading courses are required or recommended.

❖ Your Writing Course Placement ❖

College Composition, the freshman writing course required of all students, is offered in three different formats designed to match students' skills levels. **The format of *College Composition* you are required to take is determined by your score on the *Essay* section of the placement test.**

Kean offers a three-credit-hour format of *College Composition* (ENG 1030) and two different extended six-credit-hour formats of *College Composition* (ENG 1031/1032 and ENG 1033/1034) designed for students whose placement test essays indicate they should take the course in a more intensive format that provides additional class time for writing instruction/skills development. ENG 1031/1032 is a six-credit course taken in one

semester; ENG 1033/1034 is a six-credit course taken in two sequential semesters (i.e., three credits each semester) to give students more time to develop their writing skills.

- If your *Essay* score is 0–3, you are required to take ENG 1033/1034, the two-semester, six-credit-hour version of *College Composition*. Only three of the six credits for ENG 1033/1034 count towards graduation.
- If your *Essay* score is 4–5, you are required to take ENG 1031/1032, the one-semester, six-credit-hour version of *College Composition*. Only three of the six credits for ENG 1031/1032 count towards graduation.
- If your *Essay* score is ≥ 6 or you were exempt from writing testing because your *SAT-Writing* score was ≥ 520 , you will take the three-credit-hour format of *College Composition*, ENG 1030.

❖ **Your Math Course Placement** ❖

Whether or not you are required to take a developmental math course prior to taking your college-level math course(s) is determined by your *Elementary Algebra (EA)* score on the placement test.

- If your *EA* score is ≤ 75 you are required to take the developmental math course, MATH 0901 (*Basic Algebra*), before you take your college-level math course(s).
- If your *EA* score is ≥ 76 or you were exempt from math testing because your *SAT-Math* score was ≥ 530 , you are NOT required to take developmental math before you can take the first college-level math course required by your major.

The ACCUPLACER *College-Level Mathematics (CLM)* test is automatically administered to students with *EA* scores ≥ 100 and, upon request, to students exempt from *EA* testing due to their *SAT-Math* scores. **The *CLM* test score is used to determine preparedness for *Precalculus* and *Calculus I*:**

- If your *CLM* score is in the 65–94 range, you are eligible to take MATH 1054 (*Precalculus*) or MATH 1044 (*Precalculus for Business*).
- If your *CLM* score is ≥ 95 , you are eligible to take MATH 2411 (*Calculus I*).

Whether or not you take any advanced math course for which you are eligible will largely depend on whether the course is required by your particular major.

❖ **Your Foreign Language Course Placement** ❖

Kean does NOT have a foreign language requirement, but if you want to study French, German, or Spanish at Kean, **your score on the Web-CAPE Foreign Language Placement Exam determines which course you should take first.**

- For **French**, if your score is < 260 , you should take FREN 1101 (*Basic French I*); if your score is 260–336, you should take FREN 1102 (*Basic French II*); if your score is 337–402, you should take FREN 2101 (*Intermediate French Grammar, Reading and Writing*); and if your score is > 402 , you should take FREN 2102 (*French Conversation*).
- For **German**, if your score is < 292 , you should take GERM 1101 (*Basic German I*); if your score is 292–383, you should take GERM 1102 (*Basic German II*); if your score is 384–492, you should take GERM 2101 (*Intermediate German I*); and if your score is > 492 , you should take GERM 2102 (*Intermediate German II*).
- For **Spanish**, if your score is < 270 , you should take SPAN 1101 (*Basic Spanish I*); if your score is 270–345, you should take SPAN 1102 (*Basic Spanish II*); if your score is 346–427, you should take SPAN 2101 (*Intermediate Spanish I*); and if your score is > 427 , you should take SPAN 2102 (*Intermediate Spanish II*).

❖ Descriptions of Courses ❖

CS 0409 (*Basic Reading Skills*): This course is designed to develop proficiency in reading to meet the curriculum needs of succeeding courses. Emphasis is on vocabulary development and comprehension skills. Prerequisites: none (placement by ACCUPLACER *Reading Comprehension* score).

CS 0412 (*Introduction to Academic Reading*): In this course, students will focus on improving and refining their reading comprehension skills, increasing their general and specific vocabulary levels, matching reading strategies with their learning styles, and applying appropriate strategies to college-level texts. CS 0412 is offered only in a “paired course” format; i.e., students will concurrently enroll in a CS 0412 section and a designated college-level course (such as a sociology, health, or psychology course). The skills and strategies studied in the CS 0412 class will be applied to the materials and assignments of the course with which it is paired. Prerequisites: successful completion of CS 0409 or appropriate score on ACCUPLACER *Reading Comprehension* test.

CS 1501 (*College Reading and Study Skills*): This college-level course (three elective credits) is designed to help students increase the efficiency of their reading and learning skills. Topics covered include classroom listening and note-taking skills; reading skills for the content areas, including vocabulary development and speed and accuracy of reading comprehension; study skills, such as textbook note-taking, memory improvement, test preparation, and test-taking; and organizational skills such as time management and task analysis and prioritization. Prerequisites: successful completion of CS 0409 and CS 0412 or appropriate score on ACCUPLACER *Reading Comprehension* test.

College Composition (ENG 1030 or ENG 1031/1032, or ENG 1033/1034): This course covers expository and persuasive writing for academic purposes. Emphasis is placed on writing as a reflective and social process; writing across the curriculum; critical thinking; and the development of a personal intellectual perspective and style of expression. Prerequisites: none.

MATH 0901 (*Basic Algebra*): Topics covered in this course include operations with real numbers, simplifying algebraic expressions, linear equations, graphing equations of lines, applications and word problems, operations with polynomials, factoring polynomials, solving quadratic equations, and operations with square roots. Prerequisite: none (placement by ACCUPLACER *Elementary Algebra* score).

MATH 1000 (*Algebra for College Students*): Topics covered in this course include operations with real numbers, polynomial expressions, exponents, rational and radical expressions; solutions of linear and nonlinear equations and inequalities; solutions of linear and nonlinear systems of equations; and an introduction to functions and their graphs. Prerequisite: successful completion of MATH 0901 (if required).

MATH 1010 (*Foundations of Mathematics*): An introduction to mathematical reasoning including problem-solving strategies, sets and set operations, logic, geometry, and statistics. Prerequisite: successful completion of MATH 0901 (if required).

MATH 1016 (*Statistics*): Topics covered in this course include: descriptive and inferential statistics, graphic treatment of data, characteristics of distributions, statistical models, correlation, regression, estimation and hypothesis testing. Computer applications. Prerequisite: successful completion of MATH 0901 (if required).

MATH 1030 (*Problem Solving in Mathematics*): This course focuses on development and application of problem solving strategies to a variety of problems within and outside of mathematics, making connections between mathematics and other content areas, numerous and varied experiences with problem solving as a method of inquiry, and applications. Prerequisite: successful completion of MATH 0901 (if required).

MATH 1044 (*Precalculus for Business*): Topics covered in this course include equations, inequalities, and their applications; functions and graphs, lines, parabolas and systems of equations; exponential and logarithmic functions; compound interest, present value, annuities and amortization of loans; matrix algebra, Gauss-Jordan elimination and applications; inverse of a matrix, solutions of systems of equations and inequalities; and problem solving methods. Student will be required to acquire a specified graphing calculator. Cannot be used as a pre-requisite for MATH 2411.

Prerequisites: successful completion of MATH 0901 (if required) and MATH 1000 or appropriate score on ACCUPLACER *College-Level Mathematics* test.

MATH 1054 (*Precalculus*): Topics covered in this course include exponential and logarithmic functions; trigonometric functions with emphasis on trigonometric identities and trigonometric analysis; complex numbers, polar coordinates, plane vectors and trigonometric forms of complex numbers; arithmetic and geometric sequences and series; and problem solving methods.

Prerequisites: successful completion of MATH 0901 (if required) and MATH 1000 or appropriate score on ACCUPLACER *College-Level Mathematics* test.

MATH 2411 (*Calculus I*): Topics covered in this course include functions, limits, and continuity; differentiation of algebraic and trigonometric functions; tangent and normal lines; Newton's method; optimization and related rate problems. Course includes applications to the physical, biological, and managerial sciences and computer applications.

Prerequisites: successful completion of MATH 0901 (if required) and MATH 1000 and MATH 1054 or appropriate score on ACCUPLACER *College-Level Mathematics* test.

❖ **Answers to Frequently Asked Questions** ❖

Q: How will I know which courses to take during my first semester?

A: When you come to Kean to register for classes, Center for Academic Success (CAS) staff will help you select appropriate courses based on your placement test results and your intended major. (If you are undecided about your major, you will focus on the freshman-level courses that all majors have in common.) Your first-semester courses will typically include: (1) GE 1000 (*Transition to Kean*), the one-credit orientation course required of all freshmen; (2), *College Composition*, the writing course required of all freshmen; (3) a math course (as determined by your placement test results and the requirements of your major); and (4) a reading course (if required or recommended based on your placement test

results). Other courses commonly taken by first-semester freshmen are introductory-level courses that fulfill General Education Humanities requirements (for example, art, music, and foreign language courses) or General Education Social Science requirements (for example, history, psychology, and sociology courses).

Q. Where can I find a list of all the courses required by my intended major?

A. For a list of all the courses you will need to complete to earn your degree, go to the CAS website (www.kean.edu/~cas) and click on the *GUIDE SHEETS* link; then click on the *EFFECTIVE FALL 2009 GUIDE SHEETS* link and select your major.

Q: Why is *College Composition* offered in different formats?

A: Because the writing skills of entering freshmen vary, Kean does not have a “one-size-fits-all” freshman composition course. Instead, *College Composition* is offered in a variety of formats designed to match students’ skills levels. ENG 1030 is the three-credit, one-semester version of *College Composition*; ENG 1031/1032 is the six-credit, one-semester version; and ENG 1033/1034 is the six-credit, two-semester version. The two “extended” versions of *College Composition*—ENG 1031/1032 and ENG 1033/1034—are designed for students whose placement test essays indicate that they should take the course in a format that provides for more intensive/extensive development of their writing skills. (Three of the six credits earned in ENG 1031/1032 or ENG 1033/1034 are *Supplemental University Instruction* credits that do not count towards graduation.)

Q: Why are reading courses required or recommended for some students?

A: Many University courses require that students master extensive and often complex assigned readings/texts. In order to prepare students to succeed in such courses, reading courses are required or recommended for incoming freshmen whose *Reading Comprehension* scores on the placement test fall within certain ranges.

Q: Why is the reading course CS 0412 offered in the “paired course” format?

A: Each CS 0412 (*Introduction to Academic Reading*) class is paired with a college-level “content” class, such as *Introduction to Sociology*, so that students have the opportunity to apply the skills and strategies they are working on in the reading course to actual assignments and reading materials from the content course.

Q: What courses are paired with reading?

A: Courses paired with CS 0412 include SOC 1000, *Introduction to Sociology*; ID 1225, *Critical Issues and Values of Contemporary Health*; THE 1000, *Introduction to Theatre*; and PSY 1000, *General Psychology*. All of these content courses are three-credit, college-level courses that fulfill General Education requirements.

Q: Why is CS 1501 recommended for some students?

A. CS 1501 (*College Reading and Study Skills*) is recommended (but not required) for students with borderline scores on the ACCUPLACER *Reading Comprehension* test. Students in this score range, while not required to take developmental non-credit reading, would benefit from developing their reading and study skills strategies at the beginning of their college careers. CS 1501 is a college-level course that earns three elective credits. Most majors, except Education majors, have elective credits.

Q: Why is a developmental math course required for some students?

A: Students with lower-range *Elementary Algebra* scores on the placement test are required to take MATH 0901 (*Basic Algebra*) to help prepare them for their college-level math course(s) and for other courses involving quantitative reasoning.

Q: What college-level math course(s) will I be required to take?

A: The college-level math course(s) you will be required to complete will depend upon your major. All majors require at least one college-level math course. Some majors, especially those under the College of Natural, Applied and Health Sciences and the College of Business and Public Administration, require a sequence of two or more math courses. To view the specific requirements of your intended major, go to the CAS website (www.kean.edu/~cas) and click on the *GUIDE SHEETS* link; then click on the *EFFECTIVE FALL 2009 GUIDE SHEETS* link and select your major.

Q: Which courses have credits that do not count towards graduation?

A: The credits earned in the developmental reading courses CS 0409 (*Basic Reading Skills*) and CS 0412 (*Introduction to Academic Reading*), the developmental math course MATH 0901 (*Basic Algebra*), and some English as a Second Language (ESL) courses, are developmental credits that do not count towards graduation or factor in your Grade Point Average (GPA). In each of the “extended” six-credit versions of *College Composition* (ENG 1031/1032 and ENG 1033/1034), three of the six credits earned are *Supplemental University Instruction* credits that do not count towards graduation or factor in your GPA. However, developmental and supplemental credits do count in your semester credit load; i.e., they do count in determining your full- or part-time status and therefore your tuition as well as your eligibility for housing, athletics, financial aid, etc.

Q: Won't I “fall behind” if I have to take credits that don't count towards graduation?

A: Many students—at Kean as well as most other colleges/universities—have to take developmental- or supplemental-credit courses at the beginning of their college careers. Such courses are required of students because this initial investment in skills development has proven to be critical to students' success and persistence in college. The most common way students “catch up” on credits is by taking courses during one or more summers during their undergraduate years.

Q: Can I start taking courses this summer, (i.e., before my first fall semester)?

A: Yes, you can take courses at Kean during Summer Session II (June 28th through August 5th). For more information about summer courses for incoming freshmen, go to the GE website (www.kean.edu/~gened) and click on the *Summer 2010* link.

Q: What should I do if I am entitled to accommodations in my classes due to a documented learning disability?

A: You should contact *Project Excel* at (908) 737-5400 prior to the start of the semester. *Project Excel* is a free, voluntary, and confidential support program for students with documented learning disabilities.

Q: Who should I contact if I have additional questions about my placement test results/course placements?

A: If you have any questions about the courses you are required to take, you should call Kean's GE Program—at (908) 737-0330—*before* you register for classes.