

Use Skills Insight to set course placement scores.

Easily set initial course placement scores using Skills Insight™ statements and your institution's Performance Level Descriptors.

What are Skills Insight statements?

Skills Insight statements describe the knowledge and skills associated with a specific score range. Each statement describes what a student scoring within that range is likely to know and be able to do in relation to the academic skills measured on the test.

What are Performance Level Descriptors?

Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) define the minimal knowledge, skills, and abilities a student must demonstrate for placement into a course. PLDs are defined by the institution.

Where can I find course placement resources?

- [Skills Insight Statements](#)
- [Concordance Tables](#)
- [A Guide to Conducting Standard Setting](#)

Got it. What's next?

Compare your PLDs for a course to the appropriate Skills Insight statements. If the list of prerequisite skills and abilities for a course match the statements for a particular score range, then the lower part of that range may be considered the initial placement score.

Exemplar: 237 placement score for English XXX

Performance Level Descriptors:

English XXX

Interpret complex text, and identify central idea, theme, or purpose.

Understand high-utility academic phrases using context clues.

Draw connections between moderately complex texts.

Reading Skills Insight Statements:

Score Range 237–249

Locate clearly stated information in, and draw simple inferences from, a text.

Locate a text's explicitly stated main purpose.

Integrate basic information and ideas from multiple texts on the same topic.

Determine the meaning of a common word or phrase using clear context clues.

SO, WHAT'S MY COURSE PLACEMENT SCORE?

In the exemplar, by matching your PLDs for your introductory English class to the appropriate Skills Insight statement, you arrive at a course placement score of 237. Continue this process for your remaining courses.

Watch a video of this process at collegeboard.org/accuplacer-toolkit.