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**Research Briefs from Institutional Research****Recommended Questions to Remove and Add to Accuplacer**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this brief is to recommend adding thirteen questions to Accuplacer and removing ten questions from Accuplacer.

**Background:** In an effort to control for motivation when conducting research, identify strong predictors of student success, and to facilitate informed decision making the Crafton Hills College (CHC) Office of Research and Planning (ORP) is recommending the addition of thirteen additional educational background questions to Accuplacer. At the same time, in order to not increase the burden on students when completing Accuplacer, the ORP is also recommending removing ten questions from Accuplacer that are not used in the placement of students.

**Findings:** Eight of the questions were adapted from the Motivated Strategies for learning Questionnaire (MSLQ) and measure self-efficacy. The five other questions seek to increase the amount of background information that we collect from students and have also been found to predict course success. Table 1 lists the ten questions that the ORP is recommending be removed and the reasons for the recommendation. Table 2 lists the eight MSLQ questions and how they would be asked in Accuplacer. The rationale for adding the eight self-efficacy questions is in the following brief: *Examination of the MSLQ for use on Accuplacer*. Table 3 provides the additional five questions that the ORP is recommending be added and the rationale for adding the questions.

**Recommended Questions to Remove**

- I am a very good student
- Is English the language you prefer to use in conversation with friends and family?
- In how many units do you intend to enroll at CHC?
- I know how to schedule my time to accomplish my school tasks.
- I usually do very well in school and at academic tasks.
- Would you like more information on Crafton Hills College's Student Success Program?
- I know how to study to perform well on tests.
- At which location are you taking this assessment?
- Which of the following colleges will you attend this coming semester?
- Which HS Test (There is no question, just a list of 12 high schools)
- At which location are you taking this assessment?

**Self-Efficacy Questions from the MSLQ**

- I believe I will receive excellent grades in the classes that I take at Crafton.
- I'm certain I can understand the most difficult material presented in the courses at Crafton.
- I'm confident I can learn the basic concepts taught in the courses at Crafton.
- I'm confident I can understand the most complex material presented by the instructors at Crafton.
- I'm confident I can do an excellent job on the assignments and tests in the courses at Crafton.
- I expect to do well in the courses that I take at Crafton.
- I'm certain I can master the skills being taught in the courses at Crafton.

- Considering that some of the courses and some of the teachers are more difficult than others, I still think I have the skills to do well in the courses here.

*Five Additional Questions to Add to Accuplacer*

- Are you the first person in your immediate family (Parents, brothers/sisters, grandparents) to ever attend college?
- What is your High School Grade Point Average (GPA)?
- How many hours a week do you estimate you spend reading novels, newspapers, news magazines, reports, or articles?
- How long have you been out of school? (Don't count or include summer)
- Which statement best describes your writing experience?

**Table 1: Suggested Questions to Remove from Accuplacer.**

Question Name	Question	Rationale
Good student	19. I am a very good student. Very true Somewhat true Not true	Doesn't really tell us very much. In Fall 2011 74% of students responded "very true" and 26% responded "somewhat true." Most students think that they are good students. More important for us to identify areas that we can focus on.
Prefer English	32. Is English the language you prefer to use in conversation with friends and family? Yes No	We have two additional questions that ask about comfort talking in English and how many years of education students received in English. Don't need a third question when we have such a small population responding "Yes" to this question.
Registered Units	36. In how many units to you intend to enroll at CHC? 12 or more units 9 to less than 12 units 6 to less than 9 units less than 6 units	Doesn't really tell us very much unless someone is using on a regular basis to plan. We can find how many units students register in by merging in data from Datatel.
Schedule time	I know how to schedule my time to accomplish my school tasks. Very true Somewhat true Not true	This would be more informative if we asked about the skills involved in time-management.
School and academic tasks	I usually do very well in school and at academic tasks. Very true Somewhat true Not true	Again, not very informative to know how well student thinks they do at academic tasks. Would be more informative to ask about specific academic tasks that we find are related to student success.
Student Success	Would you like more information on Crafton Hills College's Student Success Program? Yes No, not at this time	A better approach then asking students about something they probably don't know about would be to use Accuplacer to identify students who are most likely to need the Student Success Program and provide these students with information about the program.
Study to perform	I know how to study to perform well on tests. Very true Somewhat true Not true	Again, if we want to know this we need to be asking about skills and behaviors that we know are related to performing well on tests.

Table 1 Continued!

Question Name	Question	Rationale
Test location	At which location are you taking this assessment? CHC – Assessment Center CHC - DSPS High School Campus Other location	Is there a reason we need to know this?
Which college will you attend?	Which of the following colleges will you attend this coming semester? Valley RCC Chaffey Mt. SAC Crafton Other California College Out of State College	I’m not sure why we want to know this.
Which HS Test	There is no question written here. Students are just given 12 high schools to choose from.	I’m not sure why we would need to ask this on Accuplacer. We can get this information from CCCApply.
Which location testing	At which location are you taking this assessment? CHC Campus Yucaipa HS Campus Redlands HS Campus Redlands East Valley HS Campus Orangewood HS Campus Grove HS Campus San Gorgonio HS Campus Other school location.	I’m not sure why we ask this question twice and why, if we decide to keep both of them, we couldn’t combine them.

**Table 2: Suggested Question Format for Each Question of the Self-Efficacy Measurement Scale.**

Name	Question	Not at all true of me						Very true of me
SE1	<p>The following question asks about your attitude about taking courses at Crafton College. Remember there is no right or wrong answer, just answer as accurately as possible. Use the scale to answer the question. If you think the statement below is very true of you, choose 7; if a statement is not at all true of you, choose 1. If the statement is more or less true of you, find the number between 1 and 7 that best describes you.</p> <p>I believe I will receive excellent grades in the classes that I take at Crafton.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SE2	<p>The following question asks about your attitude about taking courses at Crafton College. Remember there is no right or wrong answer, just answer as accurately as possible. Use the scale to answer the question. If you think the statement below is very true of you, choose 7; if a statement is not at all true of you, choose 1. If the statement is more or less true of you, find the number between 1 and 7 that best describes you.</p> <p>I'm certain I can understand the most difficult material presented in the courses at Crafton.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SE3	<p>The following question asks about your attitude about taking courses at Crafton College. Remember there is no right or wrong answer, just answer as accurately as possible. Use the scale to answer the question. If you think the statement below is very true of you, choose 7; if a statement is not at all true of you, choose 1. If the statement is more or less true of you, find the number between 1 and 7 that best describes you.</p> <p>I'm confident I can learn the basic concepts taught in the courses at Crafton.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**Table 2 Continued!**

SE4	<p>The following question asks about your attitude about taking courses at Crafton College. Remember there is no right or wrong answer, just answer as accurately as possible. Use the scale to answer the question. If you think the statement below is very true of you, choose 7; if a statement is not at all true of you, choose 1. If the statement is more or less true of you, find the number between 1 and 7 that best describes you.</p> <p>I'm confident I can understand the most complex material presented by the instructors at Crafton.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SE5	<p>The following question asks about your attitude about taking courses at Crafton College. Remember there is no right or wrong answer, just answer as accurately as possible. Use the scale to answer the question. If you think the statement below is very true of you, choose 7; if a statement is not at all true of you, choose 1. If the statement is more or less true of you, find the number between 1 and 7 that best describes you.</p> <p>I'm confident I can do an excellent job on the assignments and tests in the courses at Crafton.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SE6	<p>The following question asks about your attitude about taking courses at Crafton College. Remember there is no right or wrong answer, just answer as accurately as possible. Use the scale to answer the question. If you think the statement below is very true of you, choose 7; if a statement is not at all true of you, choose 1. If the statement is more or less true of you, find the number between 1 and 7 that best describes you.</p> <p>I expect to do well in the courses that I take at Crafton.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**Table 2 Continued!**

SE7	<p>The following question asks about your attitude about taking courses at Crafton College. Remember there is no right or wrong answer, just answer as accurately as possible. Use the scale to answer the question. If you think the statement below is very true of you, choose 7; if a statement is not at all true of you, choose 1. If the statement is more or less true of you, find the number between 1 and 7 that best describes you.</p> <p>I'm certain I can master the skills being taught in the courses at Crafton.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SE8	<p>The following question asks about your attitude about taking courses at Crafton College. Remember there is no right or wrong answer, just answer as accurately as possible. Use the scale to answer the question. If you think the statement below is very true of you, choose 7; if a statement is not at all true of you, choose 1. If the statement is more or less true of you, find the number between 1 and 7 that best describes you.</p> <p>Considering that some of the courses and some of the teachers are more difficult than others, I still think I have the skills to do well in the courses here.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**Table 3: Five Additional Questions to Add to Accuplacer.**

Question Name	Question	Rationale
FirstCollege	Are you the first person in your immediate family (Parents, brothers/sisters, grandparents) to ever attend college? Yes No	A response to this question can give us indication of how motivated/prepared students are to attend college.
HSGPA	What is your High School Grade Point Average (GPA)? Below a D ( 0 – 0.9) D to C- (1.0 – 1.4) C- to C (1.5 – 1.9) C to B- (2.0 – 2.4) B- to B (2.5 – 2.9) B to A- (3.0 – 3.4) A- To A (3.5 – 4.0)	A response to this question can give us indication of how aligned the high school curriculum is to Crafton’s curriculum.
HoursRead	How many hours a week do you estimate you spend reading novels, newspapers, news magazines, reports, or articles? None 1 to 2 hours 3 to 4 hours 5 to 6 hours 7 to 8 hours 9 or more hours	Will give us an indication of a student’s reading level and identifies a behavior that can be improved.
YearsOutSchool	How long have you been out of school? (Don’t count or include summer) Still in school Less than 1 year 1 to 2 years 3 to 4 years 5 to 9 years 10 or more years	This measure is consistently related to predicting course success.
WriteExp	Which statement best describes your writing experience? I have little experience writing complete sentences. Most of my experience is in writing complete sentences. Most of my experience is in writing 2 – 3 paragraph essays. I have experience writing long essays and reports.	Gives an indication of the student’s skill level in writing.