

FOR STUDENTS PLACED IN EBS 021 (English Skills)

Dear Student,

Your score on the placement test indicates that you are required to take English Basic Skills (EBS) 021. This course meets for five hours per week for intensive work in college reading, writing and critical thinking.

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT THIS PLACEMENT

FACT: Completing this course will give you five “non-degree” credits. This means that the course DOES count in your grade point average and towards full-time student status for financial aid, but it does NOT count in the total number of credits you need for graduation. Since this course contains five “non-degree” credits, doing well can significantly raise your grade point average.

FACT: You did not “fail” the Accuplacer test. In fact, you did better than many students who took the test. However, based on your score, it appears that you need to improve or refresh your reading, writing, and language skills so that you will be successful in college-level reading and writing.

FACT: You will have to pass this course in order to earn a placement in English Composition 1 (WRT 101). You have to achieve two goals to pass this class: (1) You will have to take a “mastery” test at the end of the semester, and (2) you will have to earn a passing average in the class. If you fail to achieve either one of these goals, you will have to repeat EBS 021.

FACT: You have ONE opportunity to take a “challenge test” to change your placement in this course. You can challenge your placement before you register for classes, or your teacher might recommend that you challenge once he or she sees a sample of your writing in the first days of the semester. You can only take one challenge test, so make sure you are prepared.

FACT: Because this class is worth “non-degree” credits, it is usually not transferable to other colleges. Therefore, it makes sense to pass this course, and then earn three degree credits in WRT 101 BEFORE you transfer. If you transfer before earning “degree” credits in English, the college you plan to transfer to might require you to take its placement test and you might be required to take non-degree credits there.

FINALLY: Do not be disappointed with your placement in this non-degree credit course. Our research has shown that students who successfully completed EBS 021 do better in English Composition 1 (WRT 101), a course required of all BCC students, than students who are not required to take this course.

Developmental English (EBS) At Bergen Community College

What is the purpose of the Developmental English Program?

The Developmental English Program provides the opportunity for students to learn the skills needed to be successful in college. It helps students improve reading, writing and critical thinking skills. It also teaches academic survival skills such as how to study, how to take tests, how to take notes, how to use the library, and how to use computers. Research shows that students who take EBS courses are more likely to pass English Composition I than students who were not enrolled in EBS.

Who administers the Developmental English program?

Students with questions about Developmental English should contact Professor Eileen Fitzgerald, Coordinator of EBS, in person in A-333D or by email at efitzgerald@bergen.edu. See www.bergen.edu/ebs for more information about the program.

How do students get into the Developmental English Program?

Students are required to take EBS courses because of scores earned on their placement test. As a result of the scores, students are placed in one of the four levels of EBS courses. Students who place into EBS courses must enroll in them their first semester and must take them continuously until they exit the program. Other college courses may be taken at the same time as EBS courses, but the total number of credits students can take each semester is limited to ensure student success.

Can students challenge their placement in the Developmental English Program?

Students who think their placement test scores do not reflect their ability are permitted to take a challenge test before registering for courses. In addition, students who enroll in EBS courses are given a second screening in the first week of classes and may be given permission by their professors to challenge their EBS placement.

See the "Progression to WRT 101" Chart to understand the different levels of EBS courses.