

FOR STUDENTS PLACED IN EBS 011 (Developmental Skills I) **THIS CLASS WAS FORMERLY KNOWN AS EBS 014/015**

Dear Student,

Your score on the Accuplacer Test was below 199, indicating that you are required to take English Basic Skills (EBS) 011 (**formerly EBS 014/015**). 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, 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 will take EBS 011 (**formerly EBS 014/015**) in your first semester at the college. In the second semester, you will take the next level, EBS 012 (**formerly known as EBS 016/017**). At the end of EBS 012, you will need to take a “mastery” test in order to earn a placement in English Composition 1 (WRT 101). You do have options to skip EBS 012 if you do well in EBS 011. *See the back of this page for more information about getting into WRT 101 sooner.*

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.

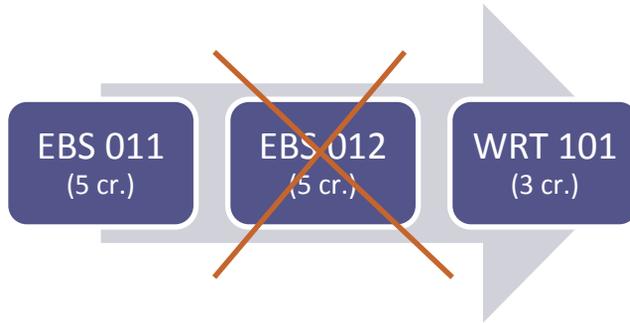
FACT: Because your EBS classes will be worth “non-degree” credits, they are usually not transferable to other colleges. Therefore, it makes sense to pass your EBS courses, and then earn three degree credits in WRT 101 BEFORE you transfer. If you transfer before earning “degree” credits in English, the 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 the EBS program do better in English Composition 1 (WRT 101), a course required of all BCC students, than students who are not required to take EBS classes.

How to Get to WRT 101 Sooner (if you've been placed in EBS 011)

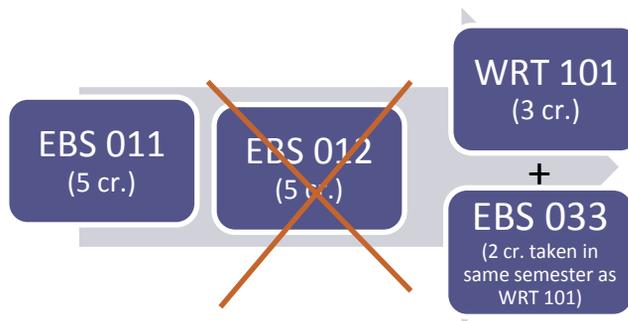
Option #1: Variable Exit

If you take EBS 011 in your first semester, get an A and pass the EBS Mastery Test with at least a 7, you can skip EBS 012 and take WRT 101 in your second semester.



Option #2: EBS 033

If you take EBS 011 in your first semester, get at least a B, pass the EBS Mastery Test with at least a 6, and have a professor recommendation, you are eligible to skip EBS 012 and take WRT 101 paired with the 2-credit EBS 033 support course in your second semester.



English Basic Skills (EBS) at Bergen Community College

What is the purpose of the EBS Program?

The EBS 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, and 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 EBS program?

Students with questions about EBS should contact: Dr. Leigh Jonaitis, EBS Department Chair, in person in A-333D or by phone (201) 447-7168. See www.bergen.edu/ebs for more information about the program.

How do students get into the EBS Program?

Students are required to take EBS courses because of scores earned on the Accuplacer 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 are limited each semester to ensure student success.

Can students challenge their placement in the EBS 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.

Progression to WRT 101 (Composition 1) Based on Placement Scores

Score of
0 - 199

EBS 011
(5 cr.)

EBS 012
(5 cr.)

WRT 101
(3 cr.)

Score of
200 - 234

EBS 021
(5 cr.)

WRT 101
(3 cr.)

Score of
235 - 239

WRT 101
(3 cr.)

+

EBS 033
(2 cr. taken as co-
requisite w/ WRT 101)

Score of
240 - 249

WRT 101
(3 cr.)

+

EBS 041
(1 cr. taken as co-
requisite w/ WRT 101)

Score of
250 - 360

WRT 101
(3 cr.)