

Academic Placement Retesting Policy

Approved By: Northeastern State University Executive Cabinet	History: Revised – December 19, 2017
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	Additional References:
	Forms:

PURPOSE

This policy impacts students entering the institution who need to test / re-test for placement into academic courses.

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

OSRHE policy 3.9 Institutional Admission and Retention addresses entry-level assessment and course placement and section 3.20.4 Entry level Assessment addresses skills deficiencies revealed by assessment results below college-level expectations. NSU’s catalog describes the current retesting policy.

CONTEXT

Entry-level students whose ACT scores are below the cut score for college-level placement have the opportunity to test for placement using the Computerized Placement Test (CPT) produced by Accuplacer. Students retest with mixed results. Because the 30-day window is quite long, students may be discouraged from attending NSU, even if they just barely missed the cut score. The current policy does not account for students having a poor test day.

NSU’s first test is free. Students currently do not pay to retest. Other institutions charge to retest as this increases the incentive for students to take the test seriously.

CURRENT POLICY

Students are encouraged to take the placement tests well before classes begin so they can study and retest, if necessary, to attempt to avoid taking developmental classes. Students must wait a minimum of thirty days after taking placement tests before they are eligible to retest. The student must

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be within 10 points of testing into the next level course in order to retest and will only be allowed to retest twice. Once classes begin, only exceptional circumstances will warrant retesting, and the student must seek approval from the instructor teaching the class to be retested in that subject area. (2017-18 NSU Undergraduate catalog, <http://catalog.nsuok.edu/content.php?catoid=19&navoid=661#deficiencies-and-developmental>)

PROPOSED POLICY

Students are encouraged to take the placement tests well before classes begin so they can study and retest, if necessary, to avoid taking developmental classes. Students must wait a minimum of one week after taking placement tests before they are eligible to retest. Students will be allowed to retest twice. Students will be charged for second and third attempts. Once classes begin, only exceptional circumstances will warrant retesting, and the student must seek approval from the instructor teaching the class to be retested in that subject area.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

NSU'S current retesting policy is more restrictive than our sister institutions who allow students to retest more frequently and do not place a restriction on required score before retesting. The Developmental Education Committee believes that students would be better served if we expanded our policy to allow shorter times between testing and expanded the opportunities for students whose scores may be lower than 10 points below the cut score.

NSU's first test would be free. However, by charging students a minimal cost for retesting, NSU encourages students to be more serious and deliberative in retesting. NSU is considering \$10 per retest which is below other RUSO institutions. (UCO charges \$30 per retest.)