

Spring 2013 – ENGL V07 / ESL V54 Assessment Test Validation Study

■ **INTRODUCTION**

In fall 2012, the English Department and the Office of Research and Evaluation (IR Office) undertook a study to re-validate CTEP Assessment Test **cut-scores** used to recommend placements in English Composition or Reading courses.

For purposes of evaluating cut-scores, a **consequential-related** approach was utilized. This type of validity study relies on the opinions of both instructors and students regarding the appropriateness of student course placements. At a minimum, instructors must report that at least **75%** of their students were correctly placed, **and** at least **75%** of the students must feel that they were appropriately placed.

Results of the study were reported in December 2012 by the IR Office (Fall 2012 – English and Reading Assessment Test Validation Study). Cut-scores for the three **English Composition** courses were found to be **adequate**. Of the four Reading levels, only the cut-score for **ENGL V07** did **not** meet the criteria for adequacy – i.e., faculty evaluated **62%** of students as prepared for the course and only **60%** of students reported that they felt ready for the course.

On January 17, 2013, the Dean of Institutional Effectiveness, English and Learning Resources, the Dean of Student Services, the English Department Chair, the Reading faculty, the Assessment Specialist, and the IR Officer met to discuss and interpret the negative results of the ENGL V07 validation study. In light of the fact that the three other Reading courses easily met the consequential-related criteria (lowest faculty evaluation of preparedness was 91% and lowest student self-appraisal of readiness was 100%), it was thought that students in the fall 2012 ENGL V07 course might not have been representative of the average ENGL V07 cohort. To obtain additional data on the academic preparedness of students enrolling in ENGL V07, it was decided to conduct a consequential-related validity study on students enrolled in **spring 2013** ENGL V07 and ESL V54 (ENGL V07 and ESL V54 are cross-listed courses, with the title “Intermediate Reading Comprehension”).

■ **METHODOLOGY**

In spring 2013, VC offered one section of ENGL V07 and one section of ESL V54; the sections were taught as one class by Kathryn Schoenrock. About five weeks into the term, Ms Schoenrock was emailed a class roster for each section and was asked to evaluate the academic readiness of students in these sections. After completing the rosters, Ms Schoenrock returned them to the IR Office by email.

During this same time period, students in the ENGL V07 / ESL V54 class were asked to self-assess the appropriateness of their placements in that class. Each student was sent an email letter requesting that they use a SurveyMonkey form (via an embedded link) to report their preparedness for the class.

Instructor evaluations of student academic readiness and student self-appraisals were entered into an Access database at the IR Office. The database contained CTEP Reading Comprehension scores for **eleven** of the **twenty-two** ENGL V07 / ESL V54 students; the IR Office was not able to obtain Reading Comprehension scores for the remaining eleven students. Data were then processed and analyzed using the consequential-related validity methodology.

■ **RESULTS**

Placements in Reading courses are based on scores related to the Reading Comprehension portion of the CTEP. The score range for placement in ENGL V07 / ESL V54 is “0 to 16” out of a total of “35.” To evaluate the adequacy of the ENGL V07 / ESL V54 cut-score, the analysis was restricted to data that were associated with students whose scores were “16” or less (see **Data Tables on page 2**).

► The cut-score for **ENGL V07 / ESL V54** was found to be **adequate**.

Reading Score Range	Recommended Courses	Percentages of Prepared Students		Result of Consequential-Related Validity Study
		Faculty Evaluations	Student Self-Appraisals	
00 to 16	ENGL V07 / ESL V54	89%	100%	Positive

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▪ **DATA TABLES**

Spring 2013: ENGL V07 / ESL V54 – Intermediate Reading Comprehension, 3.5 Units

F-1. Summary of Faculty Responses

Course ID	CRN	Enrollments	Returned Rosters	Percent Returned
ENGL V07	32006	20	1	100%
ESL V54	31729	2	1	100%
Total	---	22	2	100%

F-2. Faculty Evaluations of Students in ENGL V07 / ESL V54

FACULTY EVALUATIONS Method Used to Meet ENGL V07/ESL V54 Pre-Requisite	Students in ENGL V07/ESL V54		Students on Returned Rosters		Unprepared Students		Prepared Students
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
A. Pre-Req Course at VCCCD							
B1. VC Assessment (Score: 17 – 35)	2	9.1%	2	9.1%	0	0%	0%
B2. VC Assessment (Score: 00 – 16)	9	40.9%	9	40.9%	1	11%	89%
C. Equivalency or Challenge							
D. Override							
E. Unknown	11	50.0%	11	50.0%	0	0%	0%
Totals / Average Percents	22	100.0%	22	100.0%	1	5%	95%

F-3. Student Appraisals

STUDENT APPRAISALS Method Used to Meet ENGL V07/ESL V54 Pre-Requisite	Students on Returned Rosters		Student Appraisals		Unprepared Students		Prepared Students
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
A. Pre-Req Course at VCCCD							
B1. VC Assessment (Score: 17 – 35)	2	9.1%	1	9.1%	0	0%	100%
B2. VC Assessment (Score: 00 – 16)	9	40.9%	7	63.6%	0	0%	100%
C. Equivalency or Challenge							
D. Override							
E. Unknown	11	50.0%	3	27.3%	0	0%	
Totals / Average Percents	22	100.0%	11	100.0%	0	0%	100%

F-4. Distribution of ENGL V07 / ESL V54 Students by CTEP Reading Comprehension Score

ENGL V07/ESL V54 Score on Reading Comprehension	Instructor Evaluations			Student Appraisals		
	Unprepared Percentage	Total by Score	Unprepared	Unprepared Percentage	Total by Score	Unprepared
22	0.0%	1	0	0.0%	1	0
19	0.0%	1	0			
Subtotal: 17 – 22	0.0%	2	0	0.0%	1	0
16	0.0%	1	0	0.0%	1	0
15	0.0%	2	0	0.0%	2	0
13	0.0%	1	0	0.0%	1	0
12	0.0%	1	0	0.0%	1	0
11	0.0%	1	0	0.0%	1	0
08	100.0%	1	1			
07	0.0%	1	0			
06	0.0%	1	0	0.0%	1	0
Subtotal: 00 – 16	11.1%	9	1	0.0%	7	0
Av Percent / Totals	9.1%	11	1	0.0%	8	0