

**Standards for Open-Entry Access and Inventory of Assessment Approaches  
PA TAACCCT 1 Consortium**

This deliverable satisfies Priority 1, Strategy 1.1, Activities 1.1a and 1.1c

**Community College of Philadelphia  
TAACCCT 1 Grant Administration Office**

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### **Open-Entry Access**

All fourteen community colleges are open-entry access institutions. Anyone meeting the minimum requirements for enrollment into a TAACCCT program will be accepted. Students who do not meet the educational level required for a specific program of study will be offered remediation to allow the student to reach the required skill level. One goal of the TAACCCT project is to rapidly re-deploy students into the workforce. To that end, students may be required to test out of remediation within a specific timeframe, established by each individual college, to be able to enroll. When a student is unable to meet the required skill level, TAACCCT staff will refer the student to resources within or outside of the college as appropriate.

### **Assessment and Remediation Approaches**

Assessment and remediation are an essential part of the PA TAACCCT project. Each approach helps staff and faculty understand how to assist participants in their educational and career success. Since the PA consortium model was regional we did not apply one assessment standard across the state; each college identified and implemented the assessment and remediation package most appropriate for their TAACCCT program. As such, a survey was distributed to all 14 colleges in the first quarter of 2013 requesting information on the assessment and remediation tools used by TAACCCT, the college and/or the CareerLink. A second, modified survey which focused only on TAACCCT assessment and remediation approaches was distributed in 2014 with the purpose of capturing any changes that were implemented after program launch. A description of the tools used by the colleges and the detailed assessment inventories are provided below.

In response to our survey, colleges identified seven (7) distinct **assessment tests** that were either being used or were proposed to be used to assess potential TAACCCT participants-with four (4) tests leading the group. Descriptions of these four tests are provided below.

- The Test for Adult Basic Education (TABE) is an aptitude tests used to assess the skill level of adult learners and to provide that individual with a baseline of where they are in relation to certain educational areas. The tests measures competency in six (6) areas: Reading, Language, Language Mechanics, Vocabulary, Spelling and Math (with an Applied Math subtest) though often not all six (6) testing areas are utilized. Scoring is based on grade level and ranges from 0-12.9 with 12.9 being equivalent to a high school graduate ([CTB/McGraw-Hill](#)).
- ACT WorkKeys is a job skills assessment test which can lead to the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) which is used by employers and career training programs to measure foundational and soft skills. Testing is conducted in three areas: Reading for Information, Locating information and Applied Mathematics. The test is scored from level 1-7, each corresponding to either a bronze, silver, gold or platinum career readiness certificate ([ACT WorkKeys](#)).
- Accuplacer is an assessment test typically used by institutions of higher education as part of their enrollment process. It consists of four testing areas: Reading Skills, Essay, Arithmetic and Elementary Algebra. The test is scored numerically ranging from 20-120 and scores are interpreted by school advisors and counselors to determine placement ([Accuplacer](#)).
- Compass is a test used to evaluate skill level and to determine student needs in the areas of math, reading, writing, writing essay and English as a Second Language each with

several subtests. It is primarily used by institutions of higher education. Tests are scored as a percentage ([ACT Compass](#)).

Eight of the fourteen colleges identified a **remediation** tool for TAACCCT participants. All of these tools are online, are self-paced and are designed to provide remediation or supplemental learning. The four most identified tests are below.

- KeyTrain is a curriculum that helps prepare individuals to earn the ACT WorkKeys Career Readiness Certificate but can be used to sharpen foundational skills. It provides lessons in the same three areas as WorkKeys: Reading for Information, Locating Information and Applied Mathematics ([ACT KeyTrain](#)).
- MyFoundationsLab is an online resource designed to help assess, diagnose, and remediate students' knowledge of the reading, writing, and math required to successfully place within the credit-earning and development curriculum of higher education institutions. ([Pearson MyFoundationsLab](#)).
- Plato is an online program that provides curricula in a wide range of core subjects. It can be used for students requiring remediation as well as those at or above grade level ([Edmentum Plato](#)).
- Skills Tutor is online program designed to supplement classroom instruction and which is self-paced ([Houghton Mifflin Harcourt](#)).

## **Detailed Inventory of Assessment Approaches**

**Inventory of Assessment Approaches Used by PA TAACCCT Round 1- Initial survey results- April 2013**

College	Careelink Service Area	Careerlink Assessment Contact	Careerlink Assessment Tool	TAACCCT Assessment	TAACCCT Assmt Population	TAACCCT Minimum Grade Levels	TAACCCT Remediation Tool	TAACCCT Training Vouchers	TAACCCT Eligible Provider	TAACCCT Assessment Risks	Routine Assmt - Credit	Routine Assmt - Noncredit
Community College of Allegheny County	Allegheny West, Allegheny East, Downtown Pittsburgh, Washington Co.	Allegheny West, Allegheny East, Downtown Pittsburgh, Washington Co.	TABE	TABE complete battery	All participants	10th grade math/reading for Certified Production Technician and AMIST 1 & 2; 11th grade for AMIST 3	PLATO, Pearson My Math Lab and/or My Foundation Lab	No, program is tuition-free	No, currently in progress target date 7/1/2012	Need to identify a test that includes trigonometry for AMIST 3.	TABE	COMPASS
Community College of Beaver County	Beaver Co, Washington Co, Lawrence Co, Gayette Co, Allegheny Co, Westmoreland Co, plus Wva and Ohio	Beaver Co	Initial - Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT); TABE; Needs Assessment; Employment Interest/ Temperament Assessment; SAGE; O*Net Career Development Assessment	COMPASS	n/a	TBD	Pearson My Foundations Lab	Yes	No, anticipate submitting when program development is complete	None	COMPASS for placement, SAT or ACT	n/a
Bucks County Community College	Bucks Co	Bucks Co	Career Scope, Work Keys, TABE, Key Train, O*Net	One or more: Work Keys, TABE, Type Focus, Ramsey Combined Basic Skills, Ramsey Mechanical Aptitude Test, Accuplacer for all credit students	All participants	For credit classes, at least level 2 on Reading Placement Test; students that do not score at least level 2 must complete READ090; for non-credit, TBD	TBD: Key Train, HealthCenter21, and other tools currently under consideration	Yes (if eligible)	Some, but not all, are. In progress.	None	Accuplacer and internal writing sample	Work Keys, TABE, Ramsey Basic Skills, Ramsey Mechanical Aptitude at discretion of program manager
Butler County Community College	Butler Co, Armstrong Co, Indiana Co, Mercer Co, Lawrence Co, Jefferson Co	Butler Co, Armstrong Co, Indiana Co, Mercer Co, Lawrence Co	Most TABE, some CareerTrack.	Wonderlic GAIN and/or TABE	All participants in any class lasting >=2 days	No minimum requirement, as non-credit; remediation as required on an individual basis	Skills Tutor	Yes	Yes	Difference in assessment process from catchment area CareerLinks. Mitigated by using GAIN on all participants on intake	COMPASS	None
Community College of Philadelphia	All in Philadelphia Co (Suburban Stn, Northwest, Northeast, North Philadelphia, Nueva Esperanza)	All in Philadelphia Co (Suburban Stn, Northwest, Northeast, North Philadelphia, Nueva Esperanza)	TABE. Individual careerlinks may also use SDS Interest Survey Form R and E, Key Train Remediation, Key Train, Work Keys, O*Net.	TABE. When remedial tool is in place, will centralize testing in-house with a tool that correlates to the TABE	All participants	10th grade math and reading	TBD	No, program is fully funded and tuition-free	No, in progress	Restructuring and reorganization of CareerLink in 2012	ACT COMPASS	None
Delaware County Community College	Chester Co, Delaware Co (Media, Chester City)	Delaware Co (Media, Chester City)	Chester Co: Keytrain; Delaware Co: program administered by DCCC including SDS, Strong Interest (SII), Career Decision-Making System Revised; TABE; MBTI, Key Train, SkillScan	None.	n/a	8th grade reading	No	No.	No, in progress	Manpower/resource constraints to complete and document assessments.	College Writing Sample, Accuplacer Reading and Math	None

College	Careelink Service Area	Careerlink Assessment Contact	Careerlink Assessment Tool	TAACCCT Assessment	TAACCCT Assmt Population	TAACCCT Minimum Grade Levels	TAACCCT Remediation Tool	TAACCCT Training Vouchers	TAACCCT Eligible Provider	TAACCCT Assessment Risks	Routine Assmt - Credit	Routine Assmt - Noncredit
Harrisburg Area Community College	Franklin Co, Adams Co, Cumberland Co, York Co, Dauphin Co, Lebanon Co	Franklin Co, Adams Co, Cumberland Co, York Co, Dauphin Co, Lebanon Co	WIN and WorkKeys. TABE is administered for individuals unable to complete the WIN remediation and test in WorkKeys	For credit: Accuplacer; for non credit: WorkKeys if funded through WIA.	n/a	n/a	n/a	Yes	No, in progress	n/a	Accuplacer (Reading, Writing, Math)	n/a
Lehigh Carbon Community College	Lehigh Valley, Carbon Co	Lehigh Valley, Carbon Co	WorkKeys and WIN	WorkKeys	All participants	GED or high school diploma minimum	Key Train	TBD	Yes	ACT COMPASS pricing and difficulty coordinating the grant with CareerLink	COMPASS	TABE, Work Keys, Key Train
Luzerne County Community College	Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton, Pottsville, Lackawanna Co, Wyoming Co, some Northern Tier offices	Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre, Lackawanna Co, Pottsville	Work Keys, with remediation using KeyTrain or WIN	Accuplacer for Health Info. Mgt courses (credit-based); discussion/informal eval. for Industrial Maint. Tech., TBD for Solar Panel Installation	Health Info. Mgt only	Health Info. Mgt - std Accuplacer cut-off scores (Reading 80, Writing 83, Math 58)	No	n/a	n/a	No process in place for Solar Energy program (Solar Pane)	Accuplacer	None
Montgomery County Community College	Montgomery Co.	Montgomery Co.	WorkKeys, with KeyTrain for remediation	WorkKeys, plus customized assessment by program	All participants	Each program will have different standards based on the level of difficulty of the individual program	Key Train	Yes	No, in progress	n/a	Accuplacer for math and reading; Write Placer for writing	None
Westmoreland County Community College	Westmoreland/ Fayette	Westmoreland/ Fayette	TABE	Program specific math pre-test	Credit only	Students must achieve a minimum score of 70% on the Natural Gas & Oil Technology Math placement test	No	No	Yes	No	Accuplacer	None
Reading Area Community College	Berks Co	Berks Co	WIN, WorkKeys	WorkKeys, COMPASS	All participants	Noncredit: WorkKeys reading for information, 8; Locating Information 8, Applied Mathematics 8. Specific technical problems will have higher levels required. Credit, COMPASS Reading 11 and Mathematics 11, Faculty scored writing sample 11	Noncredit: WorkKeys - Career Readiness Certificate; credit: Pearson My Reading Lab and Pearson My Math Lab	Yes	No, in progress	non-credit program directors are unfamiliar with assessment.	COMPASS, faculty scored writing sample	WIN, API Reading Assessment
Pennsylvania Highlands Community College	No Information Provided											
Northampton Community College	No Information Provided											

### Updated Inventory of Assessment Approaches Used by PA TAACCCT Round 1- second, modified survey results- January 2014

College	TAACCCT Assessment	Assessment Scoring	TAACCCT Minimum Score/Grade Level Required for Enrollment	TAACCCT Assmt Population	TAACCCT Remediation Tool
Community College of Allegheny County	TABE complete battery	grade level. Range from 0.1 - 12.9+ (yy.m).	11th grade math/reading for all programs	All participants	PLATO, Pearson My Math Lab and/or My Foundation Lab
Community College of Beaver County	COMPASS	percentages: 0-100%	TBD	All participants	Pearson My Foundations Lab
Bucks County Community College	Tests are given as needed on an individual basis, administered by the corresponding academic department:  WorkKeys  TABE complete battery  Type Focus Personality Test  Ramsey: Combined Basic Skills test, Mechanical Aptitude test  Accuplacer- all credit students	WORKKEYS: 3 test areas scored by levels ranging 1-7  TABE: grade level, range 0.1-12.9+ (yy.m).  TYPE FOCUS: personality test scored with alpha characters  RAMSEY: percentile scores  ACCUPLACER: numerical score range of 20-120 and a percentile score ranging from 0-100%	HIT & Advanced Manufacturing: TABE, minimum 8th grade. Assessment is waived if candidate has an Associates or Bachelors degree or if candidate has attended BCCC previously. Other Assessments are administered as needed and determined by faculty.	All participants	TBD: Key Train, HealthCenter21, and other tools currently under consideration
Butler County Community College	Wonderlic GAIN and/or TABE	GAIN: Level 1- 6: 1- beginning ABE Lit; 2 - beginning basic ed; 3 - low intermediate basic ed; 4 - high intermediate basic ed; 5 - Low adult secondary ed; 6 - high adult secondary ed  TABE: grade level (yy.m). Range 0.1-12.9+	No minimum requirement, as programs are non-credit; assessments are used after enrollment for determining any remediation needs	All participants in any class lasting >=2 days	Skills Tutor
Community College of Philadelphia	ACCUESS	correlated to the TABE scores: 1-12+ (yy.m).	8th Grade math and reading (changed from 10th grade in Summer 2013)	All participants	Plato
Delaware County Community College	None.	None.	12th grade determined by HS Diploma/GED	All participants	No
Harrisburg Area Community College	WorkKeys	3 test areas, scores range from Level 1-7	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lehigh Carbon Community College	WorkKeys	3 test areas, scores by levels ranging 1-7	GED or high school diploma minimum, 12th grade determined by diploma/GED	All participants	Key Train



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<b>Luzerne County Community College</b>	Health Info. Mgt courses (credit-based): ACCUPLACER  Industrial Maint. Tech: INFORMAL EVALUATION  Solar Panel Installer: N/A	ACCUPLACER: numerical score range of 20-120 and a percentile score ranging from 0-100%  Informal evaluation: conducted and scored by instrutors/staff	Health Info. Mgt - Reading 80, Writing 83, Math 58	Health Info. Mgt only	No
<b>Montgomery County Community College</b>	KeyTrain	3 test areas, scored by Levels ranging 1-7	Minimum level 4	All participants	Key Train
<b>Northampton Community College</b>	WorkKeys, COMPASS, ACCUPLACER	WORKKEYS: 3 test areas, scored by levels ranging 1-7  COMPASS: percentages: 0-100%  ACCUPLACER: numerical score range of 20-120 and a percentile score ranging from 0-100%	Noncredit; WorkKeys: Reading for information 4, Locating Information 4, Applied Mathematics 4. Credit; PSSA, SAT or COMPASS /ACCUPLACER - no minimum.	Non-credit: all participants funded by CareerLink & all registering for the Foundation in Trades - Basic Credit: all students in AAS degree track programs.	N/A
<b>Westmoreland County Community College</b>	Program specific math pre-test	percentages: 0-100%	Students must achieve a minimum score of 70% on the Natural Gas & Oil Technology Math placement test	Credit only	No
<b>Reading Area Community College</b>	WorkKeys, COMPASS	WORKKEYS: 3 test areas, scored by levels ranging 1-7  COMPASS: percentages: 0-100%	Noncredit: WorkKeys reading for information, 8; Locating Information 8, Applied Mathematics 8. Specific technical problems will have higher levels required.  Credit: COMPASS Reading 11 and Mathematics 11, Faculty scored writing	All participants	Noncredit: WorkKeys - Career Readiness Certificate;  Credit: Pearson My Reading Lab and Pearson My Math Lab
<b>Pennsylvania Highlands Community College</b>	No information provided				