

An Early Indicator of College Readiness

More than one-third of all students who enter college require developmental education—coursework that costs time and money without earning students credit toward a degree. To better help high school students prepare for the demands of college, Smarter Balanced has worked with higher education leaders and faculty to develop an assessment system that measures essential knowledge and skills in English and math. Students' results on Smarter Balanced assessments can provide colleges, schools, and students with an early indicator of student readiness for entry-level, credit-bearing college courses.

Used by Colleges and Universities

In ten states, more than 200 colleges and universities—both public systems and private schools—use students' scores on the high school test as one measure to determine whether students are ready for credit-bearing courses and can bypass developmental courses. And now, six colleges in South Dakota use Smarter Balanced scores for “guaranteed general admission.”

In seven member states (California, Delaware, Hawaii, Nevada, South Dakota, Washington, and West Virginia), leaders in K-12 and higher education have collaborated to create Grade 12 courses to help students graduate with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in credit-bearing courses. Smarter Balanced scores will also be used in several states to help identify students who are ready for accelerated options such as dual enrollment.

Built with Higher Education

Collaboration with higher education leaders and faculty has been critical to our success. From the very beginning, these experts have participated in key decisions to help ensure that the assessments are of the highest quality and meet the needs of colleges and universities. Higher education representatives have:

- ✓ Given expert advice on educational measurement, mathematics, English language arts, and special student populations including students with disabilities and English language learners
- ✓ Assisted in the development of the College Content-Readiness Policy
- ✓ Participated in developing Achievement Level Descriptors in ELA/literacy and mathematics that provide detailed information on what students should know and be able to do at each of four achievement levels
- ✓ Contributed to establishing threshold scores that determine whether students are on track to be ready for entry-level, transferable, credit-bearing courses at participating colleges and universities.

In spring 2017, **more than 6 million students** in grades 3 through 8 and in high school took the end-of-year assessments.

Smarter Balanced assessments...

- ✓ Were **built from the ground up** to be aligned to state college- and career-readiness standards;
- ✓ Include **writing at every grade** and ask students to solve multi-step, **real-world math problems**;
- ✓ Feature an array of question types that take advantage of **computer-based** assessment; and
- ✓ Capitalize on the strengths of **computer adaptive testing**: efficient and precise measurement with a quick turnaround of results.

Learn More

For more information, visit www.SmarterBalanced.org/about/higher-education/.

You can also try out the test software and answer sample questions on the **Practice Test**: www.SmarterBalanced.org/assessments/practice-and-training-tests/.