

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION CENTER
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. James L. Kinneavy

DATE: March 22, 1978

FROM: Anne B. Appenzellar

SUBJECT: Information about ECT Testing

Here are your copies of the tables of information we prepared for your use in considering various methods of scheduling Fall Semester sections of Freshman English courses. You may find the summaries of use in other ways or of interest to you and your colleagues.

May I remind you that Tables 1 and 2 report data from only the U.T. Austin institutional administrations of the test. Table 3 reports data from both institutional and national administrations of the test.

If we can be of further help in providing data available through our Data Processing records, please let me know.

Table 1

Summary of the Results of Institutional Administrations (Only) of the College Board's English Composition Test (ECT): Numbers and Percentages of Tests Generating/Failing to Generate Credit for English 306 1973-1978

Year	Tests Administered	Tests Generating Credit		Tests Failing to Generate Credit		Number of Hours of Credit Eligibility
	N	N	%	N	%	N
1973-1974 ^a	3,766	697	18.5%	3,069	81.5%	2,091
1974-1975	3,707	659	17.8%	3,048	82.2%	1,977
1975-1976	3,586	674	18.8%	2,912	81.2%	2,022
1976-1977	3,338	601	18.0%	2,737	82.0%	1,803
1977-1978	3,373	590	17.0%	2,783	83.0%	1,770

Note. The data reported in this table cover a testing year that begins with the testing period preceding the first summer term, includes testing during summer orientation sessions and preceding the fall and spring semesters, and ends with the conclusion of the spring semester.

^aDuring 1973-1974, the first course in the Freshman English sequence of courses was E. 301.

Table 2

Summary of the Results of Institutional Administrations (Only) of the College Board's English Composition Test (ECT) Presented by Testing Period for Departmental Scheduling Purposes: Numbers and Percentages of Tests Generating/Failing to Generate Credit for English 306 1973-1978

Year	Pre-Summer Semester Testing Periods			Summer Orientation Sessions			Pre-Fall Semester Testing Periods			Pre-Spring Semester Testing Periods			Totals										
	Tested	Eligi- ble for Credit	Not Eligi- ble for Credit	Tested	Eligi- ble for Credit	Not Eligi- ble for Credit	Tested	Eligi- ble for Credit	Not Eligi- ble for Credit	Tested	Eligi- ble for Credit	Not Eligi- ble for Credit	Tested	Eligi- ble for Credit	Not Eligi- ble for Credit								
																N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1973 ^a	220	28	13	2652	498	19	2154	81	710	105	15	605	85	184	56	36	118	64	3766	697	18	3069	82
1974	119	15	13	2367	395	17	1972	83	1011	185	18	826	82	210	64	30	146	70	3707	659	18	3048	82
1975	126	22	17	2329	411	18	1918	82	972	193	20	779	80	159	48	30	111	70	3586	674	19	2912	81
1976	75	21	28	2202	377	17	1825	83	881	153	17	728	83	180	50	28	130	72	3338	601	18	2737	82
1977	62	14	23	2221	368	17	1853	83	910 ^b	148	16	762	84	180	60	33	120	67	3373	590	17	2783	83

Note. The data presented in this table are reported by the four testing periods into which the Measurement and Evaluation Center organizes its yearly testing schedule. Because of the consistency revealed in the percentages of candidates for credit by examination who fail to place out of E. 306, the department may be able to predict the number of sections of E. 306 and E. 307/308 needed to accommodate students in any given semester or term. To include the students who take the ECT in national administrations, reference should also be made to Table 3.

^a During 1973-1974, the first course in the Freshman English sequence was E. 301.

^b Out of the 910 students who were tested immediately preceding the beginning of the fall semester, only 84 (9%) were repeating the test in an attempt to improve their scores and thus place out of E. 306. Of the 31 (37%) who did in fact make higher scores than those reported from an earlier administration of the ECT, only five (6%) of the 910 candidates made scores high enough to change their classification; these five students became eligible for E. 306 credit and thus placed out of E. 306.

Table 3

Summary of Freshman Enrollments at U.T. Austin, Fall Semesters (Only), with Numbers of Scores Reported on the Scholastic Aptitude Test and English Composition Test and Credit Eligibility for English 306 1973-1978

Year	Freshman Fall Semester Enrollments ^a	With SAT Scores	With ECT Scores	ECT Scores Generating Credit		ECT Scores Failing to Generate Credit	
				N	%	N	%
1973 ^b	4,799	4,685	4,328	1,558	36%	2,770	64%
1974	5,185	5,032	4,157	1,413	34%	2,744	66%
1975	4,976	4,915	4,471	1,431	32%	3,040	68%
1976	4,708	4,599	4,268	1,280	30%	2,988	70%
1977	4,822	4,789	4,053	1,216	30%	2,837	70%

Note. The numbers of ECT scores reported in Table 3 include those for both institutional administrations of the test conducted by the staff of the Measurement and Evaluation Center and national administrations held in nation-wide testing centers established by the College Entrance Examination Board and Educational Testing Service.

^aThe enrollment data reflect the numbers of freshmen entering U.T. Austin for the first time, directly from high school, during the fall semesters of the years indicated in Table 3.

^bDuring 1973-1974, the first course in the Freshman English sequence was E. 301.