**Middlesex Community College**

**Guided Self-Placement form for English and English Language Learner (ELL) classes**

Everyone at the college wants you to succeed and achieve your academic goals. These questions will help you choose the English course that is correct for you. Please answer these questions carefully.

The main reason to take the correct English course at the start is to build a solid foundation in reading, critical thinking, and writing. This foundation will help you in all your future classes, and in your career.

If you have any of the following from within the last 10 years, review the website at <https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/studentassessment/placement.aspx> and send the documents to the listed email addresses instead of completing the rest of this packet:

To [transcripts@middlesex.edu](mailto:transcripts@middlesex.edu)

* US High School Transcript
* College level English class at another US college or university
* AP, CLEP or other evidence of prior learning credits in English
* Literacy in English plus another language as part of the Seal of Biliteracy

To [placement@middlesex.edu](mailto:placement@middlesex.edu)

* SAT Score Report
* ACT Score Report
* HiSet Transcript
* GED Transcript

If you have taken an English course at Middlesex Community College, you should proceed to registration instead of completing this packet. You can register online or meet with an advisor. You can make an appointment or connect during on-campus and virtual drop-in times or New Student Registration Sessions. Advising information can be found at <https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/advising/>

**Section 1: English Language Learners (if English is your first language, skip to Section 2)**

**Do not use a dictionary, your phone, Google Translate or any other help when completing the following questions:**

1. Is English your first language?

* Yes
* No

2. What language do you speak with family and friends?

* English
* A language other than English (which one?)

3. Did you take English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in high school?

* Yes
* No

4. Do you feel comfortable reading textbooks in English?

* Yes, I feel comfortable reading textbooks in English.
* I feel somewhat comfortable reading textbooks in English.
* No, I am not comfortable reading textbooks in English.

5. Do you feel comfortable writing five-paragraph essays in English?

* Yes, I feel comfortable writing those assignments.
* I feel somewhat comfortable writing those assignments.
* No, I am not comfortable writing those assignments.

6. When you speak in English, do people easily understand you? Do you need to repeat yourself?

* + I have no trouble speaking in English, and nearly everyone can understand me easily.
  + I do all right when I speak in English, and most people understand me.
  + I get really uncomfortable about speaking in English because people usually don’t understand me.

If you are uncomfortable speaking in English and you answered NO or SOMEWHAT COMFORTABLE to the questions above, you can request a “Double Check” appointment with an ELL specialist to help you choose the right class <https://etcentral.sd.middlesex.mass.edu/#/form/117>

**Section 2 - Reading:**

The section of an article below represents the level of reading that you may be assigned in ENG 101 (English Composition I). Please read it and then answer a series of questions. This is not a test but will assist you in your English course selection.

**Demanding More from College by Frank Bruni**

I’m beginning to think that college exists mainly so we can debate and deconstruct it. What’s its rightful mission? How has it changed? Is it sufficiently accessible? Invariably worthwhile?

As the fall semester commenced, the questions resumed. Robert Reich, the country’s labor secretary during the Clinton administration, issued such a pointed, provocative critique of the expense and usefulness of a traditional liberal arts degree that Salon slapped this headline on it: “College is a ludicrous waste of money.”

Meanwhile, the sociologists Richard Arum and Josipa Roksa were out

with a new book, “Aspiring Adults Adrift,” in which they assessed how a diverse group of nearly 1,000 recent graduates were faring two years after they finished their undergraduate studies. About one quarter of them were still living at home. And nearly three-quarters were still getting at least some money from parents. These were the nuggets that the media understandably grabbed hold of, drawing the lesson that college isn’t the springboard that young men and women want and perhaps need it to be.

I have a problem with all of this. But my concern isn’t about the arguments themselves or some of the conclusions drawn. It’s about the narrowness of the discussion, which so heavily emphasizes how a career is successfully forged and how financial security is quickly achieved.

While those goals are important and that focus is understandable, there’s another dimension to college, and it’s one in which students aren’t being served, or serving themselves, especially well. I’m referring to the potential — and need — for college to confront and change political and social aspects of American life that are as troubling as the economy [...]

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**You don’t need to actually answer them now, but how easy or difficult would it be if you had to answer these sample questions in class and to write your opinions about this reading? (pick either “I can easily do this,” or “I can do this with time or help,” or “This would be difficult to do”)**

1. What are the main ideas of the article?
2. Choose one important quote from the article. What is its meaning?
3. What did you think about this article? Is the article connected to your own life? How?

**If you chose “I can easily do this” for these questions, you should take ENG 101 (English Composition 1 or Honors English Composition 1).**

**If you chose “I can do this with time or help” for these questions, you should take ENG 109 + 101 (Critical Thinking + English Composition 1)**

**If you chose “This would be difficult to do” for these questions, you should take ENG 092 (Reading, Writing, and Reasoning)**

**Write your course choice here: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Here is the link to our course descriptions: <https://catalog.middlesex.mass.edu/content.php?filter%5B27%5D=ENG&filter%5B29%5D=&filter%5Bkeyword%5D=&filter%5B32%5D=1&filter%5Bcpage%5D=1&cur_cat_oid=32&expand=&navoid=3016&search_database=Filter#acalog_template_course_filter>

**Section 3 - Writing:**

Read the following passage and imagine you have to use it to write an essay:

“The reasons students choose to attend college have been steadily shifting over the course of the last half-century. Ira Harkavy and Matthew Hartley of the University of Pennsylvania write, “In 1900, barely 4 percent of all high school graduates attended college. By 1970, that number had grown more than tenfold (45 percent). The reasons for attending college began to shift. Economic purposes gained ascendancy. Data from an annual survey of more that 200,000 incoming freshmen by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA show that in 1969, 80 percent of incoming freshmen believed that developing a meaningful philosophy of life was a very important goal; by 1996, that percentage diminished to 42 percent. In 1979, half of the students (49 percent) said they were attending college “to be able to make more money: by 1991, that figure had climbed to three-quarters (74.7 percent). Increasingly, the public came to view a college education as a ticket to securing a good job – a private rather than a public good.’”

**You are not actually going to write an essay now, but read this following essay prompt:**

“Think about your own goals as a college student. Then, using the article you just read, write about what a college student from 1969 would think about your own college goals. Next, describe what a college student from 1991 would think about your college goals. And lastly, explain what Harkavy and Hartley would think about your goals.”

**Using the same choices of “I can easily do this,” or “I can do this with time or help,” or “This would be difficult to do,” how easy or difficult would it be for you to write a clearly organized, grammatically correct, 5-paragraph essay on that prompt, using ideas from the reading above it?**

**If you chose “I can easily do this” for these questions, you should take ENG 101 (English Composition 1 or Honors Composition 1)**

**If you chose “I can do this with time or help” for these questions, you should take ENG 109 + 101 (Critical Thinking + English Composition 1)**

**If you chose “This would be difficult to do” for these questions, you should take ENG 092 (Reading, Writing, and Reasoning)**

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**Write your course choice here: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Last Step:**

Compare the course choice that you just got with the one that you got after the reading section. If they are the same, then list it here\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and then submit the electronic form at <https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/studentassessment/placeenglish.aspx>

If you are unsure of your placement, you can request a “Double Check” appointment with an English professor to choose your course at <https://etcentral.sd.middlesex.mass.edu/#/form/117>