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A study of placement and grade prediction in first college mathematics courses.

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Summary: A college mathematics placement test with 25 basic algebra items and 15 calculus readiness items was administered to 1572 high school seniors, and first college mathematics course grades were obtained for 319 of these students. Test results indicated that more than two thirds of the high school graduates were not college ready, and the test results were reasonably consistent with the ACT Math benchmark score of 22 for college readiness. Analysis of ACT Math scores, basic algebra scores, calculus readiness scores, and course grades indicated that basic algebra scores are reasonable predictors of grades in College Algebra, whether traditional or modeling-based.

Classification: C34 C35 C44 C45 D64 D65

Keywords: placement tests; college readiness; admission tests; grade prediction

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