



TAILWIND

PLACEMENT EXAMS

A National Partnership between the
University of Wisconsin System
and **Castle Worldwide, Inc.**

James Wollack, PhD
Sonya Sedivy, PhD



Our Story

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 1970s-1980s | Test Development Begins |
| 1990 | UW Center for Placement Testing Created |
| 2011 | Transition to computer-based testing |
| 2014 | Began working with Castle Worldwide |
| June 11, 2015 | ACT announced phasing out of Compass |
| July 16, 2015 | Tailwind Press Release |
| March 21, 2016 | First Tailwind exams administered |



The Tailwind Advantage

- Exams are developed by faculty, for faculty under direction of psychometricians
 - Center's psychometric staff oversee item development and review, test scaling, and test validation
- Exams are used by a diverse set of 2- and 4-year institutions
- Exams are uniquely comprehensive and allow for placement across all courses in introductory sequences
 - Combined Reading and Writing Skills
 - One mathematics exam for placement into multiple levels
- Opportunity to communicate directly with psychometric staff

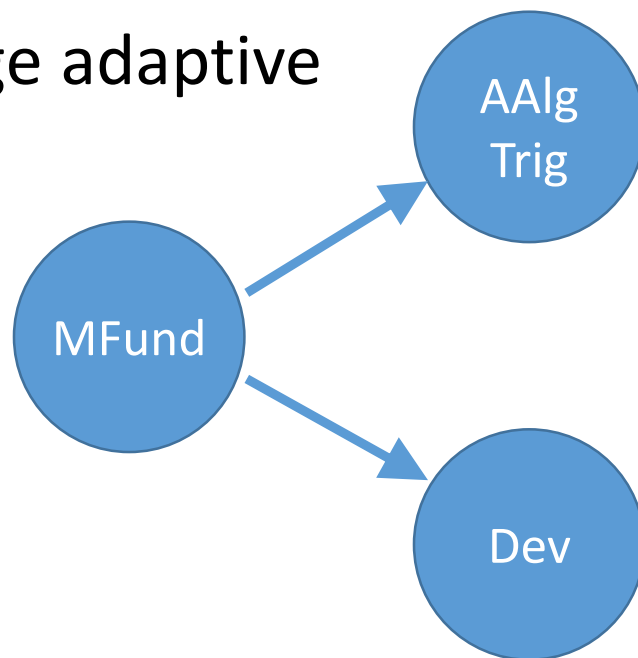


Mathematics Placement Exam

- 85 multiple choice items
- Students receive scores for each of three content areas:
 - Math Fundamentals
 - Advanced Algebra
 - Trigonometry
- Can be used to place into multiple levels of mathematics courses
- Reliabilities range from .85 to .90

Mathematics Placement Exam—Future Enhancements

- Additional section (DEV) designed exclusively to help distinguish between different levels of remediation
- Multistage adaptive



- Expected spring, 2018



English Placement Exam

- Combined Reading and Writing Skills
- Approximately 100 multiple choice items
- Scores for writing mechanics and reading comprehension separately, as well as composite score can be provided
- Reliabilities of .85 for subscales; above .90 for composite score



Foreign Language Exams

- Exams in French, German, and Spanish
- Approximately 50-60 multiple choice items
 - Language Mechanics
 - Grammar
 - Cloze Passages
 - Conversational items/Logical Rejoinders
 - Reading Comprehension
- Scores for language mechanics and reading comprehension separately, as well as a composite score
- Can be used to place from 1st to 5th semester in the language
- Reliabilities above .90 for the composite scores



UW Validation Data

- Characteristics of correctly enrolled students
 - Average half a grade point higher
 - Drop less frequently
 - Continue in discipline longer
 - Higher satisfaction ratings
- Correlates with other expected outcomes
 - Scores increase as HS units increase
 - Scores decrease with time away from discipline
 - EPT scores correlate strongly with student writing samples from actual freshman-level courses



Program Benefits

- Content and item types are developed and reviewed annually by faculty who teach the relevant courses
- A broader range of content is tested in math allowing for placement not only into/out of developmental level math, but into upper level math courses as well
- Exams that are predictive of the quality of writing students exhibit on actual classroom assignments
- Robust exams in French, German, and Spanish
- Uncompromising commitment to validity
- Full-length practice exams to help students prepare for exam
- Castle reliability and customer service



Internet-based Testing Options

Each option we provide comes with:

- One of the most reliable and easy-to-use online testing engines available, PASS
- PASS is web-based so there isn't any software to load and exams are never downloaded to the computer.
 - PASS includes robust lock-down browser, eliminating need to separately license expensive lock-down software
- Full training by Castle
- Highly responsive technical and administration support



Test Administration Models (can be combined)

1. Exams are administered through your own campus' sites, proctors and partners
 - a. No pre-registration of students required
2. Students test through Castle's site network
3. Students test through Castle's Live Online Proctoring (aka "remote proctoring") solution



Payment Options

- \$5.95 per test
- Multiple payment options
 - Post-pay
 - Pre-pay
 - E-commerce



For Test Blueprints, Sample Exams, and the Tailwind Technical Manual please visit:

www.tailwindtesting.com

or email:

Tailwind.placement@exams.wisc.edu