Placement Exams

Placement exam results are an important component of advising for course selection. Students are encouraged to complete the science, math, Spanish, French, and Writing placement exams on line over the summer. Additionally, placement exams are offered on the second day of the Customs period in the following subjects that have various points and levels of entry into the curriculum: German, Chinese, and Japanese. Students contemplating taking courses in any of these disciplines should take the appropriate placement exam(s).

There is great variety in how departments handle these results, with some viewing the results as being more “binding” than others. In spite of the lack of consistency in the use and interpretation of placement exam results, we are at this time able to proffer two rules of thumb in using placement exam results in the advising process:

- If the advisee believes that the placement is either too advanced or too low, or if the advisor has questions about the results and their relationship to course choices, contact the department for advice.
- STUDENTS SHOULD NOT REGISTER FOR A COURSE BELOW OR ABOVE THE RECOMMENDED PLACEMENT WITHOUT THE EXPRESSED CONSENT OF THE DEPARTMENT.