

What is the CAI?

Working closely with faculty and staff from colleges throughout the state, the Common Assessment Initiative (CAI) is developing a new assessment for ESL, math, and English that will be used by all California Community Colleges.

With a consistent tool used statewide, students will be able to take their assessment results with them when they transfer to another college. The customized CCCAssess common assessment tool is being developed specifically for the California Community Colleges. The centralized technology will streamline administration and make it easier for faculty to provide local placement guidance.

Rollout Schedule

Twelve campuses are piloting the assessment system and processes. To ensure a smooth transition, the pilot colleges will field test the tool in Spring 2016, and CCCAssess will be rolled out to the rest of the system on a phased timeline through Fall 2018.

Colleges piloting CCCAssess

- Bakersfield College
- Butte College
- Chaffey College
- De Anza College
- Diablo Valley College
- Fresno City College
- Rio Hondo College
- Sacramento City College
- Saddleback College
- San Joaquin Delta College
- Santa Monica College
- West Los Angeles College

Project Progress

Work is well underway and workgroups are participating in reviewing all aspects of the CAI. Faculty and staff are digging into the details on the assessment to ensure that it is customized to meet the needs of the California Community Colleges. The CAI team is visiting colleges to gather input and answer questions. Professional development and other support resources are currently being developed.

Learn more at www.CCCAssess.org



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Contact Information:

In addition to finding information on the website, you can contact the CAI staff at 530-879-4170 and reach Jennifer Coleman, EdD, Statewide Program Director, at jcoleman@ccctechcenter.org.

www.CCCAssess.org



How can the CAI benefit my students and college?

The new systemwide assessment tool will positively impact students, faculty, counseling, administrators, research teams, and assessment center staff.

Portability

Students will be able to take one assessment and the results will be transferred easily throughout the system. Students will benefit by saving time and this will speed up their paths to graduation and careers.

Formative Assessment

Formative assessment identifies what a student does and does not know, allowing both instructors and students to make adjustments.

Student Feedback

The assessment will pinpoint students' shortcomings with specific feedback that will allow them to learn the material they need. Graphical representation of where the student is performing, from easy to difficult concepts, will help individuals understand their specific strengths and weaknesses.

Students will know what to focus on to successfully complete required math, English and ESL courses. This will enable students to progress faster, and encourage them to complete coursework needed for graduation.

Instructional Benefits

Faculty will gain new insights from the comprehensive data that will be available through assessment. By looking at the consolidated data for the students in a class, faculty members can determine what topics should get more or less emphasis.

Online Assessment

The common assessment platform will be easily accessed through a web browser at college assessment centers. Students will take the assessment and staff will review the results online. Accommodations will be available for administering the assessment both remotely and with paper and pencil.

Best Practices

Colleges will benefit from sharing best practices across the entire community college system. This will enhance the quality of information that colleges use locally to make placement decisions.

How can my college participate?

After the pilot, colleges across the state will roll out the common assessment in phases from Fall 2016 through Fall 2018. It takes time to get started so colleges should begin making preparations to use CCCAssess at their campuses.

Form a Local Implementation Team: The first step is to assemble a team representing all the departments involved in assessment – faculty, counseling, research, IT, administrators, and the assessment center staff.

Analyze Current Resources: The team should start meeting to analyze the existing assessment process. For instance, the team might review contracts, hardware resources, upcoming curriculum changes, assessment staff resources, and special population accommodation. CAI will soon have materials online at www.cccassess.org to provide direction to the implementation teams.

Apply for Funding: Additionally, teams can apply to CAI for funding to support the implementation process.

Attend Presentations

The CAI will be holding informational presentations at colleges throughout the state. Additional updates will be provided at other community college conferences and meetings. Go to the CAI website to sign up for the newsletter so you will be notified of upcoming events.

Online Resources

The CAI website has links to newsletter articles discussing various aspects of the project. Additionally, professional development tools for implementation teams will be posted on the website. Learn more at www.cccassess.org.

Research Participation

Research faculty working in the California Community Colleges may be interested in participating in CAI validation, looking at performance measures, natural variation, and opportunities for quality improvement. For information about participating in the research, please contact William Fisher at wfisher@berkeley.edu.

