

## CDR Update – ACT and SAT Writing Tests

Earlier this year, ACT and the College Board each initiated new standardized tests of writing. ACT's writing test is an optional test taken at the same time as the regular ACT, first available February 2005. The score on the ACT writing test is reported separately and does not enter into the calculation of the ACT composite score. The SAT writing test is a required component administered to all SAT test takers beginning March 2005. The SAT now has three components: Critical Reading (formerly Verbal), Math, and Writing. The combined score for the SAT is the sum of these three components.

UW-Madison will be requiring a writing test score for admission in Fall 2006, and we anticipate that other UW institutions may start using writing test scores in the future. Campuses may already be receiving writing test scores with student applications for Summer 2005, Fall 2005, or Spring 2006. Finally, our current collection of SAT Combined score does not reflect the fact that the writing test is a mandatory part of the new SAT test.

With these issues in mind, we are updating the CDR student data collection to include ACT and SAT writing scores beginning with the Summer 2005 CDR submission. These data elements apply only to New Freshmen. We realize this may be a tight timeline for campuses who have not yet implemented the storage of writing test scores in their student information systems, but we expect that there will be few enough writing scores at this stage that they can be added manually to the CDR submission, if necessary.

### Summary of CDR Collection Changes

CDR student data collection beginning with the Summer 2005 term, which is submitted September 2:

- Minor changes to existing ACT data elements (DEs).
  - The collection of these elements remains the same, but the data element descriptions have been updated to reflect changes in the ACT/SAT Test Indicator (DE 2145, see below).
  - ACT Composite (DE 2150). If a New Freshman has multiple ACT test records, the maximum ACT composite score is submitted, same as before.
  - ACT English (DE 2151), ACT Math (DE 2152), ACT Reading (DE 2153), ACT Science (DE 2154). These component scores are submitted from the same test record as the ACT composite score, same as before.
- Add ACT writing score.
  - ACT English Plus Writing (DE 2149). Must be space-filled or from 01-36.
  - The English Plus Writing score will be collected from the same test record as the ACT Composite score for each New Freshman. This is consistent with the collection of the other ACT component scores.
- Add SAT component scores.
  - The components will be collected from the SAT test record for each New Freshman that has the highest sum of components. This is consistent with the logic used to submit ACT scores. Since the sum of components for the new SAT includes the writing test, the new SAT will probably be collected if a student has test records from both the old and new SAT.
  - SAT Critical Reading (DE 2156). If the ACT/SAT Test Indicator (DE 2145, see below) has a value of D, E, S, or T, then this data element must have values from 200-800; otherwise, it is space-filled.
  - SAT Math (DE 2157). If the ACT/SAT Test Indicator (DE 2145, see below) has a value of D, E, S, or T, then this data element must have values from 200-800; otherwise, it is space-filled.
  - SAT Writing (DE 2158). If the ACT/SAT Test Indicator (DE 2145, see below) has a value of E or T, then this data element must have values from 200-800; otherwise, it is space-filled.
- Remove SAT Combined score (DE 2155).
  - Discontinue collection. OPAR will calculate an SAT Combined score from the three SAT components during the build process and add it to all tables in the CDR database.

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- Change ACT/SAT Test Indicator (DE 2145).
  - New indicator values are being added to distinguish SAT test records that include writing from older SAT test records that do not include writing. We recommend that the indicators be based on the date the SAT test was taken: test dates of March 2005 or later should be indicated as “new” SAT scores.
    - C - ACT Enhanced Assessment scores were submitted, but no SAT component scores were submitted.
    - D - ACT Enhanced Assessment scores were submitted, and SAT component scores from a test record dated before March 2005 were submitted.
    - E - ACT Enhanced Assessment scores were submitted, and SAT component scores from a test record dated March 2005 or later were submitted.
    - S - No ACT Enhanced Assessment scores were submitted, but SAT component scores from a test record dated before March 2005 were submitted.
    - T - No ACT Enhanced Assessment scores were submitted, but SAT component scores from a test record dated March 2005 or later were submitted.
    - W - The standardized test score was waived, e.g., the new freshman a) had the ACT/SAT score requirement waived, or b) was age 21 or older when he/she enrolled as a new freshman.