C-ID: Basic Skills FDRG
June/July 2015 update

Current assessment tests generate a single score for each student and students are placed into courses based upon locally determined cut scores. The new Common Assessment test will not generate a single score like current assessment tests, instead it will generate a skills report based upon a set of assessment competencies in English, English as a second language (ESL), and mathematics. To assist with placement into courses, faculty in English, English as a second language (ESL), mathematics, and reading were brought together to develop C-ID descriptors for basic skills courses that are commonly taught at community colleges. These descriptors will then be mapped to the competency maps to assist college with placement decisions and to simplify movement between colleges for students.

Reading Basic Skills:
The Reading FDRG is vetting 2 descriptors through September 30, 2015.

Math Basic Skills - June 1, 2015
The Basic Skills Math FDRG has had two conference calls. Using the drafts developed at the CB 21 Meetings in the Fall of 2014 as a starting point, the FDRG refined the proposed Intermediate Algebra (for STEM) descriptor and the Math CB 21 Coding which are now close to being ready to vet. The group recommends adding three topics/objectives to the rubric for CB 21 Coding. The FDRG discussed creating a descriptor for Intermediate Algebra (for non-STEM). Since not all colleges can offer two Intermediate Algebra pathways, the group has decided to first work on an Elementary Algebra/Introductory/Beginning Algebra descriptor, a prerequisite for the Intermediate Algebra descriptor. In the fall, the FDRG plans on presenting the Intermediate Algebra (for STEM) descriptor to the Math Transfer FDRG. Then the descriptors and the additions to the rubric for CB 21 coding will be vetted. Moreover, in the fall the group would like to draft a proposed Pre-Algebra descriptor and a non-STEM Intermediate Algebra descriptor.

ESL Basic Skills – June 4, 2015
The ESL FDRG has met five times and discussed both the creation of a separate C-ID for ESL one-level-below-1A as well as the use of the English 95 (one-level-below-1A). The FDRG prefers to have only one C-ID descriptor for one-level-below-1A and accepts the content of the English 95 as appropriate for ESL; however, in order for it to be possible for ESL to submit courses to the English 95 C-ID, provisions such as "or ESL equivalent" must be made to the prerequisite listed. The English Basic Skills FDRG is considering this request and it is anticipated that changes will be made to ensure that ESL courses can be considered for the English 95 C-ID designation. The ESL FDRG is discussing the merits and challenges of creating further C-ID descriptors that would not align with English but instead solely serve the ESL discipline. Questions remain as to how noncredit would factor into this alignment, how many levels are appropriate and feasible, and whether C-ID should be created for listening/speaking courses in addition to reading/writing.

English Basic Skills – July 2, 2015
The English Basic Skills FDRG is vetting three descriptors through September 30, 2015.