Advising Students With Developmental Placement(s)
for Course Registration

- Students must complete any required placement testing before scheduling fall courses. If a student has not completed required placement testing at orientation, dismiss them and send them to the RAFT room.
- Students placed into a developmental-level course will be pre-scheduled in appropriate developmental-level courses in their first semester. The course(s) will already be on their schedules. These courses must not be deleted from the student’s schedule.
- Students with developmental placements should be strongly encouraged to complete required developmental-level courses during the summer prior to their first semester at SHIP.

Advising is an educational process to assist students in the development and fulfillment of meaningful educational plans that are compatible with their life goals. Advising under-prepared students presents varied and unique challenges. Rather than impose a “sink-or-swim” strategy or departmental expectations upon developmental students, advisors must meet students where they are. Assisting developmental students to create course schedules appropriate for their academic abilities is a key to their success.

Advising and Placement Testing

The mission of the Placement Testing Program is to ensure that students are sufficiently prepared to succeed in the courses required by the General Education Program.

- **MATH:** Students with a Math SAT score of less than 525 are required to take a placement test through ACCUPLACER, an untimed computerized test developed by the College Board. Students placed at level 1 are required to take MAT 050. Students placed at level 2 may be required to take MAT 050 if they are in an algebra/calculus based major. Students placed at levels 1, 2 or 4 have options to raise their placement levels and should contact the Testing Center.

  Credits earned in MAT 050 are included in determining a student’s class standing, and the grades are computed in the student’s quality grade point average; however, these credits do not count toward the total number of credits required for graduation.

- **READING:** Students with a Verbal SAT score of less than 425 are placed into RDG 050 Developmental Reading. Students placed into RDG 050 should be encouraged to contact the Testing Center to take the Townsend College Preparatory Reading Test before the semester begins. Students who score a passing score on the challenge exam are not required to take RDG 050.
Credits earned in RDG 050 are included in determining a student's class standing, and the grades are computed in the student's quality grade point average; however, these credits do not count toward the total number of credits required for graduation.

- **WRITING SKILLS:** Students with a Writing SAT score of less than 445 are required to take a placement test. Placement is determined from a student’s writing sample that is read and scored by faculty in the English Department. Students with a placement of level 1 are required to Take ENG 113 Introduction to Academic Writing.

Credits earned in ENG 113 are included in determining a student's class standing, the grades are computed in the student’s quality grade point average, AND these credits do count toward the total number of credits required for graduation.

*Students are strongly encouraged to satisfy any developmental placements during the summer before their first fall semester at SHIP.*

**Policy for Scheduling Students Placed into Developmental-level Courses**

Students will be pre-scheduled into required developmental-level courses according to university policy.

- Once enrolled into a developmental-level course, students may not drop or withdraw from the course unless a special exception has been granted by their College/School Dean.
- Students must complete required developmental-level course(s) with a grade of C or above. Those who earn below a C must repeat the course in the following semester at SU.
- A student may have a maximum of three attempts at each developmental-level course. Additional enrollments must be approved by the student’s dean.
- Students who do not comply with this policy will be required to meet with their College/School Dean who will determine what appropriate action should be taken. In extreme cases, students may not be permitted to register for classes the following academic semester at SU.

1. **Students scoring into developmental reading**
   - Students take RDG 050 Developmental Reading & Study Skills in their first semester at SU.
• Students placed into developmental reading may register for 5 courses if recommended by their academic advisor.
• Students placed into developmental reading should not register for reading intensive courses, such as HIS 105 W. History I and HIS 106 World History II, PSY 101 General Psychology, BIO 161 Principles of Biology I, and literature courses until RDG 050 has been successfully completed.

2. Students scoring into developmental mathematics level 1
• Must take MAT 050 before taking any college-level math course.
• Scheduling of MAT 050 Developmental Mathematics will be determined by a student’s major or area of interest.
  o Students who have declared or have an interest in a math intensive major (requires a minimum of 2 college-level math classes) should take MAT 050 in their first semester.
  o Students who have declared or have an interest in a math intensive major who are not scheduled into MAT 050 in their first semester should take the course in their second semester.
  o Students pursuing non-math intensive majors take MAT 050 in their third semester.
  o These students are required to pass MAT 050 with a grade of C or higher before they are eligible to take a college-level math course.

3. Students scoring into developmental mathematics level 2
• Students whose major does not require algebra or calculus (BA majors, Exercise Science, Social Work) are not required to take MAT 050. They may register for the required college-level math course (MAT 105, 107, 117).
• Students whose major or minor requires MAT 175 or 181 (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Math, Economics, Computer Science, Teacher Education – Middle School, or Business) must complete MAT 050 before taking any algebraically-based math course.
  o Should take MAT 050 in their first semester.

4. Students scoring into developmental writing level 1 and 2
• Should take ENG 113 Intro to Academic Writing in their first semester.
• Students who are unable take ENG 113 in their first semester will take the course in their second semester.
• These students are required to pass ENG 113 with a grade of C or higher before they are eligible to take ENG 114 Writing Intensive First-Year Seminar.

Tips for Advising Developmental Students

The advisor-advisee relationship is a key to student success and advisor satisfaction. Working with developmental-level students is different from advising other students. The process presents a unique set of challenges, requires a different set of skills and strategies, and demands more individualized attention. This relationship is best
developed when the advisor has a genuine interest in the student as a person and commitment to the student’s success. Developmental students can succeed within a supportive environment.

Here are a few thoughts to keep in mind as you work with students with developmental placements.

- Some developmental students are first-generation college students and may not be familiar with some of the basic language of higher education.
- Advisors need to monitor student progress to ensure they are making adequate academic progress to maintain financial aid eligibility.
- Some developmental students come from low socio-economic backgrounds and face the added challenges of having to work or to find money for essentials, such as textbooks. Students receiving financial aid should be encouraged to save any refund checks from their grants/loans to have upfront money to buy books the next semester.