

## ASSET HIGHLIGHTS –

- *Taking the ASSET version of the assessment is based on eligibility;*
- *The Office of Disability Services on main campus makes the determination;*
- *The eligible student is referred to the Assessment & Testing Center for taking the ASSET;*
- *All arrangements for the ASSET must be made at least three days prior to the testing;*
- *Unlike the COMPASS on some occasions, the ASSET cannot be administered off campus or to groups*

## MORE DETAILS & INFORMATION

The assessment process utilized by Delta College is an extremely useful tool in assisting students to start their college career in the most academically compatible, and skill-appropriate courses possible. The assessment is not a “pass or fail experience” – it is a snapshot of current skills in the areas of Writing, Reading and Math.

In order to take the ASSET a student must be eligible for this version, not just prefer it, as is sometimes the basis of a request. The ASSET assessment model is simply a paper-and-pencil version of the computerized COMPASS, and requires the same skill levels. It consists of a test-booklet and bubble-sheet answering key, and students darken in the answers to multiple-choice questions in the three measured areas of Writing, Reading and Math. A re-take of the COMPASS has a \$10.00 fee. There is no fee for the ASSET.

The COMPASS is the standard assessment tool, and is available on the main campus in the Assessment Center’s computer lab to any student on a come-in basis (D101 – Admissions/Financial Aid Departments).

However, the computerized COMPASS model/format may not be a good fit for some students. The College’s philosophy is that modifications to the assessment process should be made for any disabilities – temporary or permanent – that interfere with the measurement of what a student knows. In other words, the assessment is meant to reflect a student’s academic strengths – not documented barriers. The goal is to “level the playing field” for students with disabilities – even at the initial assessment step.

Beyond the basic difference in the two models, students with disabilities may need other adjustments. Various accommodations can be added to the ASSET, depending on the physical or learning barriers hampering the student in taking the computerized version:

- A modified format – audio-cassette, enlarged print, Braille, test-reader\*\*.
- Special arrangements -- extended time (2- hour standard); multiple sessions to complete testing; dictating answers to a scribe in a private setting; test re-takes.
- Different testing environment – private room (appropriate for test-reader or scribe accommodations).

Students with disabilities are identified in the high school setting under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Each requested adjustment must be consistent with instructional practices routinely used during high school instruction, and must be documented on the student's Individualized Education Plan, a school-based Psychological Evaluation, or must come from a community-based professional evaluation of disability, such as from a Physician, a Psychiatrist, a Clinical Psychological/Evaluator, etc.

NOTE: Documentation of approved modifications is not necessary in cases of temporary disabilities (broken arm, hand, fingers, etc.).

\*\* Reading of the ASSET aloud can be requested under special circumstances.

In general students identified with a Learning Disability who demonstrate deficits in reading need more time to identify new or non-routine text, comprehend what is read, and respond to as many test items as their non-disabled peers. Under any circumstances, test-reading may only be used if it has been used routinely throughout the school year by the student (*history of accommodation use and service delivery*), and must be documented in the IEP or other professional evaluation of disability.

ASSET provides audio cassettes for each of the three sections for use with headphones in the Assessment Center, or under additional circumstances, an individual may read the Writing and Reading portions of the test to a student in a private room.

