Charting Your Pathway to College with Smarter Balanced

The Smarter Balanced assessment measures how well students are developing the skills needed for success in college or the workplace, allowing you to make adjustments and get additional support along the way. Students take Smarter Balanced in grades 3 – 8 and 11.

While you do not need to earn a 3 or 4 on Smarter Balanced to graduate from high school or get into college, students who do well can receive an additional benefit in college. When you score a 3 or 4, continue to pursue rigorous courses through high school and get admitted to an Oregon public college or university, you can be exempt from some placement exams and enroll directly in credit-bearing classes your first year.

Your Smarter Balanced assessment scores will fall into one of four levels, with one score for math and one for English. You will still need to be admitted to college, regardless of your score, but your performance on Smarter Balanced will give you useful information about where you are on your path to college preparedness.

For more information about using Smarter Balanced scores for college course placement, go to oregoncoretocollege.org or contact colleges or universities directly.

The new course placement agreements for Smarter Balanced and Oregon higher education institutions are being piloted for the next two academic years. As long as technical issues are resolved as expected, students starting with the graduating high school class of 2016 can take advantage of the agreements. Be sure to check with your college or university of interest for more details about using your Smarter Balanced scores and next steps.