

Study Profile: STAAR English III Writing – ACCUPLACER Sentence Skills (★★★★☆)

The STAAR English III writing – ACCUPLACER sentence skills external validity study is designed to establish empirical links between performance on the STAAR English III writing assessment and performance on the ACCUPLACER sentence skills test.

Motivation (★★★★☆)

This analysis was based on a single group of students who took both the STAAR English III writing and the ACCUPLACER sentence skills assessments in 2010 or 2011. Data from STAAR derive from a stand-alone field test administered in 2011 and are linked to motivated ACCUPLACER sentence skills scores in corresponding years.

Representativeness (★★★★☆) and Sample Size (★★★★☆)

Grade Levels

All English III Writing Examinees Versus Those Linked to ACCUPLACER Scores

Group	Grade 8		Grade 9		Grade 10		Grade 11		Grade 12		Missing	Total	
All English	1	0%	72	0%	1,458	4%	34,543	94%	763	2%	8	0%	36,845
Linked	0	0%	1	0%	5	0%	1,329	96%	45	3%	0	0%	1,380

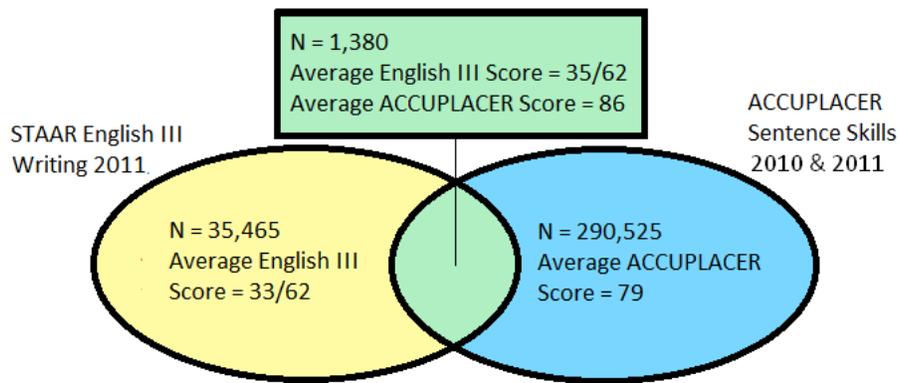
Demographic Characteristics

All English III Writing Examinees Versus Those Linked to ACCUPLACER Scores

Group	Female		Economically Disadvantaged		African American		Hispanic		White		Other	
All English	18,903	51%	16,279	44%	4,646	13%	15,494	42%	14,573	40%	2,132	6%
Linked	763	55%	597	43%	82	6%	695	50%	567	41%	36	3%

Summary of STAAR English III Writing and ACCUPLACER Sentence Skills Achievement

Linked and Unlinked Groups



Average ACCUPLACER Sentence Skills Scores Based on Students' STAAR Performance

Satisfactory Academic Performance	Advanced Academic Performance
97	115

Correlation (★★★★☆)

Correlation between STAAR English III writing and ACCUPLACER sentence skills = **0.68**

Content Overlap (★★★★☆)

There is some (approximately 36%) content/skills overlap between the STAAR English III writing assessment and the ACCUPLACER sentence skills test.

Assessment Characteristics

Assessment Characteristic	STAAR English III Writing	ACCUPLACER Sentence Skills
Purpose	Created to determine mastery of the English II Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), the state-mandated curriculum.	Under the Texas Success Initiative (TSI), the ACCUPLACER test is used to measure academic skills of students enrolling in Texas institutions of higher education to determine course placement.
Assessment Type	A criterion-referenced assessment	A criterion-referenced assessment
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures skill level in persuasive and analytical writing, revision, and editing • Includes literary nonfiction, expository, and persuasive texts to test revision and editing skills • Compositions assess students' understanding of purpose, organization/progression, development of ideas, and language/conventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures skill level in sentence correction and construction shift • Asks students to choose the best revision of a portion of a sentence and an awkward sentence. • Addresses approximately 36% of the content assessed on the STAAR English III assessment, primarily in revision and editing
Item Format	30 multiple-choice items) 2 compositions (1 persuasive, 1 analytical)	20 multiple-choice items total
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administered in March, July, and November • Administered by school personnel • Administered online and on paper • Four hour time limit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administered on a schedule determined by colleges • Administered by colleges • Administered online: computer-adaptive test • The test is untimed
Performance Standards	Performance standards established and implemented in spring 2012	Under TSI, the scaled passing score for ACCUPLACER sentence skills is 80 (maximum score of 120). Institutions are allowed to set higher standards independent of this passing score.