To: Members of the Class of 2018

Re: PLACEMENT TESTING: ALGEBRA, READING COMPREHENSION AND WRITING

From: Maureen McCartney, Associate Dean, Academic Achievement

Westfield State University uses several placement tests for incoming students to help us place you in the appropriate level Math and English courses.

Accuplacer is a computer based testing system developed by the College Entrance Examination Board to assess academic skill level. Accuplacer testing assists us in identifying first-year students who could benefit from additional support with college-level reading and mathematics. Accuplacer tests are untimed with an average test time of 30 minutes per test.

In addition to Accuplacer tests, first-year students are assessed for appropriate ENGLISH 0101 placement. The writing skills assessment test associated with this course is developed and scored by faculty from our English Department.

NOTE: Students in the Banacos Center Learning Disabilities Program are exempt from placement testing. If you require other accommodations, please contact Disability Services at (413) 572-5789.

Placement testing will take place during New Student Orientation in June. If you do not attend orientation, please contact Academic Achievement (413) 572-5561 for alternative testing dates.

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING PLACEMENT TESTS (unless otherwise exempted)

1. **Accuplacer - Algebra Test:** This test focuses on concepts of elementary algebra and consists of 14 multiple-choice questions. Use of a calculator for this test is not permitted, however, a "pop-up" calculator is provided for certain problems. For sample practice problems and solutions, go to: http://www.wsc.ma.edu/math/accuplacer/accuplacer.asp.

   **NOTE:** Recent high school graduates (and/or those who graduated within the last three years) and whose high school GPA is a 2.7 or higher are exempt from the Accuplacer Algebra test. All others will take the test.

   **Students considering Calculus in their first semester are encouraged to take our calculus placement exam. This will help us determine if you are ready for college level calculus or would benefit from a pre-calculus review. Call Academic Achievement to schedule this assessment. (413) 572-5661**

2. **Accuplacer - Reading Comprehension Test:** This test consists of 20 multiple-choice questions based on written passages.

   **NOTE:** READING COMPREHENSION TEST: Not all students are required to take the reading Comprehension Test. Students with a SAT Verbal score of 510 or higher are exempt from this requirement.

3. **Westfield Writing Skills Assessment:** First-year students are required to complete a traditional writing sample, a brief essay pertaining to one of several topics presented. Students who exhibit below college level writing skills may be registered into ENGL 0101 - Plus Workshop (based on available space).

Please call (413) 572-5561 if you have questions concerning the placement tests.