Overview

On May 1st, 2013, Apex Learning® will introduce courses with an enhanced feature set for credit recovery. These features include:

- Prescriptive unit pretests that identify the material a student has mastered and still needs to work on.

- Individualized Study Plans generated based on pretest results that direct students to the specific material they have yet to master.

- Pretest behavior customizable to your program needs via new learning management settings.

The Credit Recovery solution is offered for the courses most often needed by students to meet graduation requirements.

Math	Science	English	Social Studies
➢ Algebra I	➢ Physical Science	➢ English I	➢ U.S. History
➢ Geometry	➢ Biology	➢ English II	➢ U.S. History to the Civil War*
➢ Algebra II	➢ Chemistry	➢ English III	➢ U.S. History since the Civil War
		➢ English IV	➢ U.S. and Global Economics*
			➢ U.S. Government and Politics*
*one-semester course			➢ World History

Note: Although courses in the Credit Recovery solution have not been simplified or reduced in scope, the enhanced credit recovery feature set should *not* be used with students interested in NCAA eligibility. NCAA requires students to complete all activities within a course, regardless of their ability to demonstrate mastery.
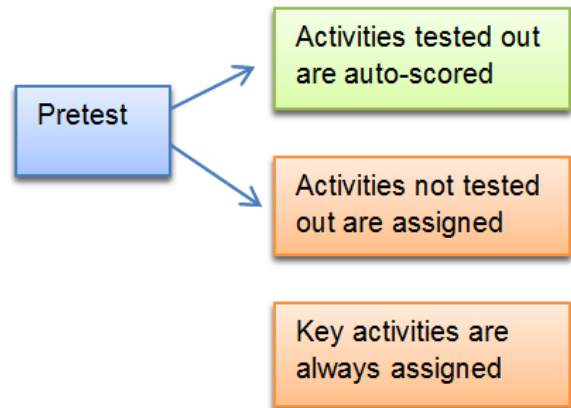
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Pretests and Individualized Study Plans

Credit recovery courses include pretests that give students the opportunity to accelerate past material they have mastered in each unit so they can focus on activities that they have not mastered.

Pretests are constructed to evaluate proficiency or knowledge using multiple assessment items for each unit objective. Students must demonstrate proficiency on several items (usually 5 to 8) per objective in order to test out of the correlated activities.

The following three steps explain how to use the pretests.

Pretest → Activities tested out are auto-scored

Pretest → Activities not tested out are assigned

Key activities are always assigned

1. The teacher sets a Test Out level percent for the classroom. This is the minimum threshold a student needs to meet to test out of material in each unit.

2. A student then completes a unit pretest to generate an individualized Study Plan for that unit.

    o If the student scores *above* the threshold for an assessment group, the correlated activities are auto-scored with the pretest percent for that assessment group.

    o If the student scores *below* the threshold for an assessment group, the correlated activities are assigned.

3. Upon completion of a pretest, the student sees their overall score and activities summary on the Pretest Results Summary. The course outline becomes the Study Plan to guide the student through assigned activities.

Pretest scores are not counted in the total points possible for a course.

Key Activities (Usually Teacher-Scored)

Key activities are designed for demonstrations of knowledge that are not well suited for computer scored evaluation (e.g. writing an essay or completing a lab). Because objectives covered by these activities are *not* evaluated by pretests, all key activities will be included in every student's Study Plan. Students should complete these activities to demonstrate full proficiency for a unit.

Summative unit tests and semester exams are included by default. Because students are assessed and demonstrate proficiency as they progress, teachers may choose to exclude summative computer- and teacher-scored tests.

Scenario: In this Grade Book scenario, the Test-Out Level is 80%. Four activity groups are assessed in the pretest. The student scored above the threshold for three of the activity groups, thus testing out of five corresponding activities. The student scored below the threshold for one of the activity groups and was assigned the corresponding activity and the lab, which is a key activity and was not covered on the pretest.

Note: Courses in the Credit Recovery solution do not include diagnostics, as pretests address that functionality. Most credit recovery courses do not include discussion activities due to the individualized and accelerated nature of credit recovery.

Academic Integrity

To support the integrity of the pretests:

- Students are presented with any one of three variants for each question on the pretest.
- Pretest question order and answer options are randomized.
- Students cannot retake pretests and teachers cannot change pretest scores or reset pretests. However, auto-populated scores for individual activities can be overwritten by the teacher.

Instructional Management

Pretest Settings appear in the Course Settings window, which can be accessed from the Classroom tab and the Grade Book. (Pretest Settings will not display for courses without pretests.)

Pretest Test-Out Level (PTO)

The default Test-Out Level is 80% and can be set from 0% to 100%.

Require Pretest to Access Content (RP)

Require Pretest to Access Content offers an additional level of security and content control. When enabled, unit content is locked until the student completes the pretest. When this setting is enabled, the student can access pretests in each unit, but must complete each pretest to unlock the unit content.

Note: Pretests are set as Proctored by default.

Course Settings

Mastery-Based Learning (MBL)
Student must achieve a minimum score on computer-scored assessments to unlock subsequent content - more

☑ Enforce MBL
　Level:　　70　%
　　　　Minimum score needed to unlock subsequent content

　Attempts:　2 ▾
　　　　Attempts allowed before assessment is locked

Security Settings
Security settings for computer-scored assessments

☑ Closed-book assessments
　Lock course contents during an assessment - more
☑ Randomize question order
　Different question order for each assessment - more
☐ Show question Feedback
　Show correct answer after each question - more
☐ Allow answer review
　Student can review a graded assessment later - more

> Security settings cannot be adjusted for pretests

Pretest Settings
Prescriptive pretests are included at the unit level and prescribe content for the student to complete - more

Test-out level: 80 %　← Pretest threshold

☐ Allow unit test-out
　Student can test out of the entire unit

☑ Require pretest to access content　→ Force student to complete the pretest first
　All unit content is locked until the student completes the pretest

For security, pretests are always set to:
- Closed-book
- Do not show question feedback
- Do not allow answer review

[Cancel] [Save]

Mastery-Based Learning (MBL) and Prescriptive Courses

If Mastery-Based Learning (MBL) is enabled, the MBL level must be less than or equal to the pretest test-out level. This ensures that students are not able to test-out of content which they still need to master.
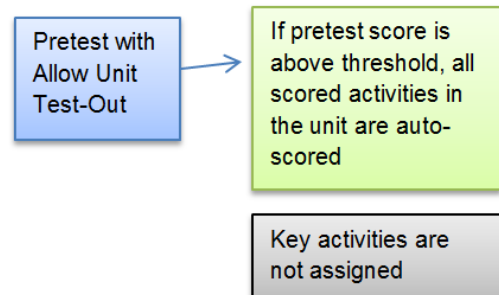
Here are three ways that Pretests and Mastery-Based Learning (MBL) can be configured.

Model	Description	Require Pretest	MBL
Sequence Enforced	• Student must work through the course in sequential order and cannot review unit content prior to taking any pretest. • If the Mastery level is higher than 0%, the student must achieve the minimum level in order to progress from activity to activity.	Yes	Yes
Pretest Guided	• Student must complete the pretest prior to accessing unit content. • If it is desirable for the student to take all pretests in the course before starting a Study Plan, unlock all the pretests and instruct the student to take the pretests in sequential order before working on other activities.	Yes	No
Open	• Student can access content in any sequence and can review content prior to taking the pretest.	No	No

Allow Unit Test-Out (UTO)

Allow Unit Test-Out permits students to rapidly test out of *all* scored activities in the unit — including key activities — *based on a passing pretest score alone.*

- If the student scores *above* the threshold for the entire pretest, all scored activities in the unit including key activities are auto-scored with the pretest percent.

Pretest with Allow Unit Test-Out →

If pretest score is above threshold, all scored activities in the unit are auto-scored

Key activities are not assigned

- If the student scores *below* the threshold for the entire pretest, they cannot test out of the unit. Instead, activities are auto-scored or assigned according to the pretest results. In this case, key activities *would* be assigned.

> **Best Practice:** Allowing Unit Test Out should only be considered when rapid acceleration is necessary. If Allow Unit Test-Out is enabled, consider setting the Pretest Test-Out Level higher because the stakes are higher.

Tracking Student Progress

Show student performance on a pretest:

- To quickly view details on a student's pretest score, the teacher double-clicks the score from the Grade Book to launch the **Student Activity Details** report. Clicking a date recorded in the Activity History table displays the **Pretest Results Details** below.

Show classroom performance on a pretest:

- From the Grade Book unit page, launch the **Classroom Activity Details** report by clicking the total points possible in an activity column heading.

Note: In the **Weekly Activity** report, activities that are auto-scored based on pretest performance are not included in the Activities Completed table.

Additional Resources

- Watch the Feature Tour Video: Enhanced Credit Recovery[1] (4:48) Password: prescriptive
- Read the Best Practices: Starting a Credit Recovery Program[2] (PDF)

Questions?

Contact Apex Learning Support at 1 (800) 453-1454 or support@apexlearning.com. Support is available Monday through Friday, from 5:00 AM to 7:00 PM Pacific Time.

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[1] http://www.brainshark.com/apexlearning/prescriptive
[2] http://www.apexlearning.com/documents/BP_Starting-Credit-Recovery-Programs.pdf