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Students enter higher education with a wide variety of mathematical backgrounds. Many are often improperly placed together in very large first year mathematics courses that have very low success rates. Students that fail their first courses may face multiple devastating consequences and, consequently, are substantially less likely to ever complete a degree.

Properly placing students into an appropriate first math or math-dependent course is paramount to their success, especially in the first two years of college. Accurate placement requires an accurate, recent assessment. Standard test scores are often out of date and not particularly predictive of student success.

We will discuss our respective placement programs, share data, and discuss student and program commonalities from the CU Boulder and University of Illinois Placement Programs which have assessed over 70,000 students. (Received September 09, 2014)