

# COMET: A BRIEF HISTORY

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM  
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# DEVELOPMENT OF COMET

- **COMET was first used in 2004, and has always consisted of four sections: math, reading comprehension and vocabulary, and a written essay.**
- **In 2007, the reading sections of the test were changed to the Gates-McGinitie Reading Test from an in-house test.**
- **Math section is updated yearly by faculty members who teach math.**
- **In 2013, the reading test was changed to Nelson-Denny after a pilot study run in fall of 2012, with 200 first semester freshmen.**

# SCORING COMET

**COMET was originally scored by using a z score established after combining the English reading comprehension and vocabulary and essay scores. The top 400 students were invited into degree program. The essay counted for 50%, reading comprehension 25% and reading vocabulary 25%. The math score was used for placement only.**

**In 2007, when the Gates-MacGinitie Reading Test was first used, the vocabulary score was dropped because when a pilot study of all COM-FSM students was completed, most students vocabulary scores were at least 2 grade levels below their reading comprehension scores.**

**In 2010, Achieving College Excellence (ACE) was implemented and actual scores established for entrance. Essay and Reading comprehension are used, and math score is for placement. This criteria is still used.**

- Degree level – Essay 34 – 50; and Reading Comp. GE 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- ACE level – Essay 28 – 33; and Reading Comp. GE 7 – 8.9<sup>th</sup> grade
- Certificate level – Essay 20 – 27; and Reading Comp. GE 5 – 6.9<sup>th</sup> grade

# ALTERNATE CRITERIA

## Degree Level

- **Reading Comp. 10<sup>th</sup> grade**
- **Essay 28 or better AND Reading Comp. 8<sup>th</sup> grade AND MS 096.**
- **Essay 42 or better AND Reading Comp. 6<sup>th</sup> grade AND MS 096**

## ACE Level

- **Reading Comp. 10<sup>th</sup> grade**
- **Essay 36 or better AND Reading Comp. 6<sup>th</sup> grade AND MS 096**

# ALTERNATE CRITERIA

## Certificate Level

- **Reading Comp. 10<sup>th</sup> grade**
- **Essay 20 or better AND Reading Comp. 4<sup>th</sup> grade AND MS 096**

# RESULTS: A QUICK VIEW

- **Median scores for all sections for the past 5 years**
- **Median scores on reading vocabulary and reading comprehension comparing Nelson-Denny to Gates-MacGinitie.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Essay</b>	<b>Reading Vocab.</b>	<b>Reading Comp.</b>	<b>Math Sum</b>
2013	29	20	15	18
2012	30	13	16	20
2011	29	13	18	
2010	25	11	18	19
2009	24	11	18	19

## HISTORY OF RESULTS FOR ALL FOUR SECTIONS

All numbers are reported as median scores.



Group	Gvoc	Nvoc	Gcomp	Ncomp
Certificate	15	18.5	13.5	15.5
ACE 1	14	19.5	17	16.5
ACE 2	11	20	18	15
Degree ESL 089	15	24	20	19
Degree EN 110	22	30.5	27.5	24

## RESULTS OF THE PILOT STUDY: COMPARISON BETWEEN NELSON- DENNY AND THE GATES-MACGINITIE

**All numbers are reported as median scores.**