

# DIRECTED SELF-PLACEMENT

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: **STUDENT** EDITION

### WHAT IS DSP?

**DSP** is not a test; it is a free online **survey**. You will complete a reading, write an essay, and answer a series of questions about your reading and writing habits. The survey will recommend which First Year Composition (**FYC**) course might best suit your needs but you make the final course selection.

### WHO IS REQUIRED TO DSP?

**All** entering first-time freshman are required to complete **DSP** unless they have already received college credit for First Year Composition (English).

### HOW IS DSP ADMINISTERED?

**DSP** is a free online survey accessed through **Blackboard**. You will log in, and at the conclusion of **DSP**, select the **FYC** course you will take your first semester or year at CSUDH.

### CAN I TAKE DSP AT CSUDH?

**Yes**, you can complete **DSP** at any computer lab on campus prior to orientation. For log-in issues, call 310-243-2500 or visit Welch Hall A-370.

### HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO COMPLETE DSP?

You can complete **DSP** in one sitting, or over the course of several days. You should plan for 3-4 hours minimum to complete.

### HOW ARE DSP AND ORIENTATION RELATED?

In order to enroll in an **FYC** course at orientation, you are required to complete **DSP** at least **one week before** orientation.

### WHAT IF I DO NOT COMPLETE DSP?

You will not be placed in an **FYC** course at orientation if you have not completed **DSP**. **FYC** courses fill up very quickly; if you have not completed **DSP** before orientation you are much less likely to get the course you want.

### DO I NEED TO COMPLETE DSP IF I RECEIVED AP, IB, OR COLLEGE CREDIT FOR ENGLISH?

**No**, if you received credit for First Year Composition (English) through an English AP exam, an International Baccalaureate course, or a course at another college or university, then you **do not** need to complete **DSP**.

### ONCE I HAVE COMPLETED DSP, WILL I HEAR BACK ABOUT MY DSP ESSAY?

**No**, you will not hear back about your essay. The purpose of the essay-writing portion of **DSP** is for you to reflect on your writing skills so you can make an educated decision about which **FYC** course is best for you.

### ONCE I HAVE COMPLETED DSP, CAN I CHANGE MY COURSE SELECTION?

No, your **DSP** decision is binding and therefore you should consider your options **carefully** before choosing a course. In exceptional cases, you may appeal your **DSP** choice before the end of the first week of classes by contacting the DSP Coordinator ([wac@csudh.edu](mailto:wac@csudh.edu)).

### WHO WILL READ MY DSP ESSAY?

While **DSP** essays are not reviewed by the university or department of English, your **FYC** instructor has access to your essay and may choose to incorporate it into the course. This is one reason you should put a genuine effort into your essay. The essay will not be graded and will not be used to change your course selection.