

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Validating the OCMT
- Expanding the OCMT pilot with the TCDSB
- Developing the OCMT Informal Assessment Item Database

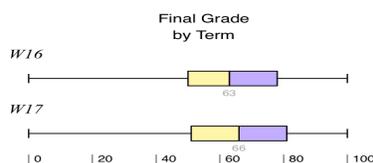
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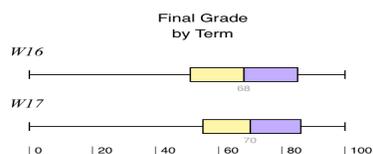
Validating the OCMT as a Placement Tool

After several semesters of benchmarking the OCMT against its existing placement tool, Accuplacer, Humber college officially implemented the OCMT for its post-admission placement testing effective January 2017. Since then, research has been conducted into the validity of the tool as a post-admission placement test, specifically examining the placement of students and their final grades in their first semester mathematics courses and comparing these results to those of students who were placed using Accuplacer the year previous. Working in partnership with Humber's Math Centre, and under the guidance of Cameron Redsell-Montgomerie, Math Centre Coordinator, the analysis concluded that the OCMT was accurately placing students in their first semester courses.

Business Mathematics



Technical Mathematics



When comparing mean and median final grades, our analysis determined that the OCMT is just as effective as Accuplacer when used as a post-admission placement test.



If you are interested in learning more about the study or the implementation of the OCMT at Humber College, the new placement scores, and the courses into which students can be streamed, please contact:

Mona Nouroozifar, Associate Dean, Mathematics, Research Skills and Analysis at:
mona.nouroozifar@humber.ca.

Results of the benchmarking phase and new scores for student placement at Humber College were shared at the 2017 OCMA Conference.

[View PPT Presentation](#)

Attend the OCMT Round Table Session taking place at the Higher Education Summit on November 26, 2017.

[View Conference Program](#)

Toronto Catholic District School Board Pilot expands the Use of the OCMT for the Summer Transition Program

With funding from the Ontario Centres of Excellence, Humber College, Vretta, and the Toronto Catholic District School board partnered to pilot the OCMT in Grade 9 Applied Mathematics classes as a way of supporting student success in mathematics. After the successful introduction of the OCMT in the winter of 2017 in 4 pilot schools with 145 students, the OCMT was then

introduced into the summer transition classes. With the ongoing support of teachers in the TCDSB, 432 Grade 8 students transitioning to Grade 9, were able to use the OCMT in their Summer Transition Program. Apart from the focus on community building, orientation, and health, the Summer Transition Program also focuses on improving the literacy and numeracy skills required for Grade 9. In the fall

semester, we will be expanding the project with an additional 10 school and impacting the achievement of over 750 students.



Ontario Centres of Excellence
Where Next Happens

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Research Spotlight

“Effects of Pedagogical Application of Computer Generated Demonstrations”

Many students find mathematics difficult as a discipline. Further, research has shown that the most powerful learning occurs when students blend symbolic interpretations with visual and spatial representations (Park & Brannon, 2013). To take advantage of this tendency Anthony Van Hoy, Professor of Mathematics at Humber College has introduced computer generated interactive demonstrations, referred to as math applets to give students additional tools for studying.

Math applets are small simulations that apply to a single phenomenon and allow individuals to adjust controls that visually (in many cases)

impact a graphic. For example the simple math applet at <http://www.anthonivanhoy.com/trigtransform.html> will allow the user to make modifications to variables in a sine or cosine function by using scroll bars, inputting different values, or changing html radio buttons. Changes can be seen instantly.

These applets can be found easily on the web and can apply to almost anything the author wishes to model. For this project, a central website, <http://www.anthonivanhoy.com/resources.html>, was created for easy access to various applets. The top 4 links on this page

direct the user to applets created by the project author as well as those created by external authors that have allowed their work to be used as open source material.

Funding for this project has been provided by the Humber College Centre for Teaching and Learning through the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Program.

For more information, please contact Professor Van Hoy at anthonivanhoy@humber.ca.



Often times called the “Academy Awards” in the learning industry, the Brandon Hall Group Excellence Award recognizes the best organizations that have successfully deployed programs, strategies, modalities, processes, systems, and tools that have achieved measurable results.

Coveted Gold Award for the OCMT Project

The OCMT technology partner, [Vretta](#), and [Humber College](#), have received a gold award from the prestigious [Brandon Hall Group](#) in the category “Best Advance in Custom Content” for the OCMT project: Addressing the Numeracy Gap through Immersive Technology Solutions.

The entry for the award highlighted not only the CMP/CSAP research that lead to the development of the OCMT assessment items and assessment framework but also the key findings and lessons learned from the implementation of the OCMT at Humber College and the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

In addition, the entry included clear strategies to scale the adoption of the OCMT across Ontario, Canada, and in other jurisdictions. The award also recognized the goal of raising the numeracy level of everyone by making the informal OCMT app available for the general population.



Award entries were evaluated by a panel of veteran, independent senior industry experts, Brandon Hall Group analysts, and executives based upon the following criteria: fit the need, design of the program, functionality, innovation, and overall measurable benefits.

[Read More](#)

OCMT: Formal and Informal Assessments

When originally conceived, the OCMT was positioned as a tool that could serve many purposes from post-admission placement testing to supporting the unique needs of a variety of mathematics courses. To preserve the integrity of the assessment items, the OCMT has since been deemed to be available only for post-admission placement testing. However, the need for a tool, authored by college faculty that supports the continued reinforcement of foundational mathematics concepts still exists. As a result, the OCMT Steering Committee recently approved the development of a second set of assessment items that could address the need for a multi-purpose tool.

In the summer of 2017, a group of faculty who are all members of the Ontario College Mathematics Association,

answered the call for faculty experts to help develop the *Informal OCMT* assessment item test bank.

Over 450 questions were created, thoroughly reviewed, and then approved by members of the Steering Committee who were also part of the [Assessment Development Project](#) lead by the CSAP team.

The assessment items are now being digitized and included into the Test Management System, by Vretta, to create and deliver unique tests, to receive, score and report on test-takers' responses, and to collate analytical data both on each test item and on the assessment as a whole.

To review and use the *Informal OCMT* to diagnose students' gaps in their math skills and help address the gaps using the

interactive remedial modules, feel free to contact Vretta at support@theocmt.org for a demo.

The OCMT Steering Committee would like to express their sincere thanks to the following individuals who were instrumental in the creation of the Informal OCMT assessment items:

1. Aleksandra Copija, Durham College
2. Cameron Redsell-Montgomerie, Humber College
3. Emily Brown, Sheridan College
4. Emily Tian, Durham College
5. Harry Matsugu, Humber College
6. Mary Spencer, Georgian College
7. Mohammad Hussain, Humber College
8. Niloofar Mani, Seneca College
9. Raj Sharma, Humber College
10. Valerie Webber, Mohawk College
11. Vincent Kwok Ming, Seneca College

[Download the Information Brochure](#)

OCMT: Try a Demo or Schedule a Meeting

TRY A DEMO

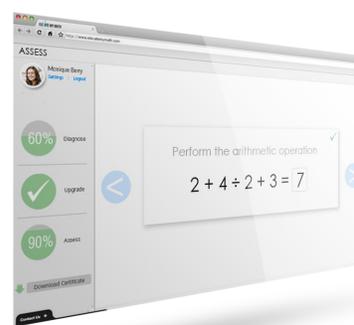
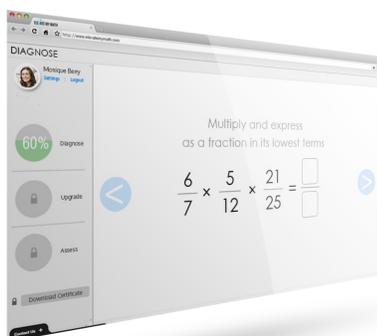
If you like to try the demo of the OCMT, click on the button to access the website that contains the demo.



SCHEDULE A MEETING

If you like one of our OCMT learning specialists to arrange for a demo at your college or school, email us at support@theocmt.org with your request. You can also download, complete, and submit your Expression of Interest to use the OCMT.

[Download the Expression of Interest](#)



OCMT

ONTARIO COLLEGES MATH TEST

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Michele Baron: OCMC
Maria Sairoglou: OCMA
Emily Brown: OCMC
Jolene Ciccarelli: K-12
Cheryl Costigan: K-12
Anand Karat: Technology Partner

Upcoming Conferences and Forums

American Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges (AMATYC) 2017

November 9 to November 12, 2017
San Diego, California

[Website](#)

Higher Education Summit 2017

November 26-27, 2017
Toronto, Ontario

[Website](#)

Ontario Association of Math Educators (OAME) 2018

May 3 and May 4th, 2018

Toronto, Ontario

[Website](#)

Ontario Colleges Math Association (OCMA) 2018

May 2018
Orillia, Ontario

[Website](#)

Fields MathEd forum

September 30, 2017

Teaching Math for an AI World

[Website](#)



**Focus on practice, pedagogy
and student success.**