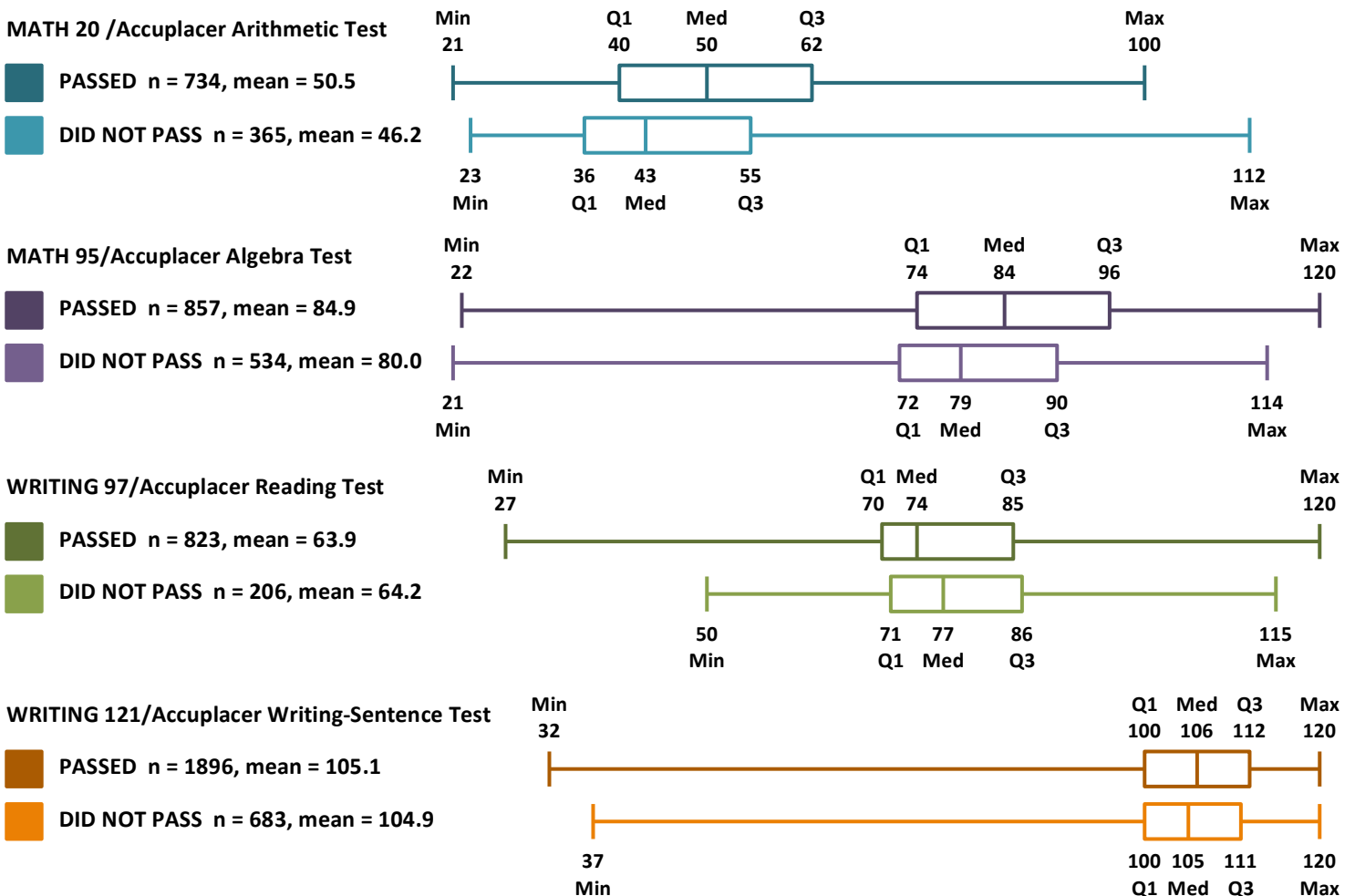


Single Measure Placement is Unreliable

Work is underway to rethink and improve Lane placement procedures through the use of **multiple measures**. The unreliability of single measure placement is seen in a comparison of Accuplacer scores of passing and non-passing students in Lane math and writing courses using box-and-whisker plots.

In Math 20, 734 students who passed the course had Accuplacer Arithmetic scores ranging from 21 to 100, with 50% concentrated between the 1st quartile (40) and 3rd quartile (62). Passing students had a higher median score (50) than non-passing students (43), but this 7-point difference is small compared to variability in both groups. Many students with low scores passed and many with high scores did not. Armed with these data, imagine trying to choose a single cut score to distinguish between students likely to succeed or to fail.

In all four courses, the distribution of Accuplacer scores among passing and non-passing students were similar. **In Writing 97, passing students actually had lower median and mean scores than non-passing students.**



Data were drawn from ten (math) or 14 (writing) consecutive terms ending Fall 2017. Samples were limited to students attempting a first math or writing course after placement testing within four terms. For more about multiple measures and for access to the larger study from which this information is taken, see the *Achieving the Dream at Lane* home page, <https://blogs.lanec.edu/achievingthedream/>.