

Accuplacer Placement Testing

General Information about Accuplacer

What is Accuplacer?

Accuplacer is one of the assessment tools used by Western Kentucky University to help assess the academic strengths and needs of incoming students. There are three parts to the Accuplacer test: Elementary Algebra, Reading Comprehension, and Sentence Skills.

The Accuplacer is not a “pass” or “fail” test. The Accuplacer results are used to place students in the proper classes their first semester to help give them the best chance for success.

Who needs to take the Accuplacer test?

In general, all incoming South Campus students will take at least a portion of the Accuplacer. Students with no ACT or SAT scores will need to take all three parts of the Accuplacer. South Campus students who have a Math ACT score of 21 or less will need to take the math Accuplacer.

What is the test like?

The Accuplacer is a computerized, multiple-choice, adaptive test. It is user-friendly, even for first-time computer users. There are 12 math questions and 20 questions each for the English and reading portions.

The Accuplacer is an untimed test which means there is no reason for students to “rush through” the exam. Students needing to take all three parts of the Accuplacer should set aside at least one hour for testing. Each section of the Accuplacer takes approximately 20 minutes, though that time can vary greatly from student to student.

Should you study for the Accuplacer?

It is important to remember that students cannot “fail” an Accuplacer. However it is also important to remember that Accuplacer results will be used to determine if a student needs to start in a developmental class for English, math, and/or reading. In order to receive results that more accurately represent their current skill level, students may wish to review the basic concepts before taking the Accuplacer.

There are several free sites available via the internet that students can use. There are enough good free sites available that it should be unnecessary to purchase any study guides. In addition to the following sites, some students might find ACT or SAT review materials helpful.

Recommended websites: (found by googling “accuplacer practice tests”)

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/accuplacer/> (this is the official Accuplacer website)

<http://wcb.neit.edu/asc/prctctst.htm> (just reading and algebra tests)

http://www.testprepreview.com/accuplacer_practice.htm (just the reading and sentence modules)

<http://www.kvcc.me.edu/website/frames/websitedata/prospectivestudents/howtoenroll/hteaccuplacer.htm> (good sample tests for English, reading, and elementary algebra)

http://webs.anokaramsey.edu/schewe/math/math_practice_tests.pdf (use the Elementary Algebra and College level exams)

<http://ux.brookdalecc.edu/fac/reading/mhurley/> (for reading skills)

Tips for Taking ACCUPLACER

1. Relax! ACCUPLACER was designed to facilitate your success in college. Your score helps you and your advisor to determine which courses are most appropriate for your current level of knowledge and skills. Once your academic strengths and needs are identified, we can find the help you need to improve underdeveloped skills before they interfere with your learning.
2. You will be able to concentrate better on the test if you get plenty of rest and eat properly prior to the test. Plan on arriving a few minutes early so you can acquaint yourself with the environment and gather your thoughts before the test begins. If you wear glasses, remember to bring them!
3. Make sure you understand all administrative and test directions before you begin the Accuplacer. The testing administrators present will be able to address any of your questions or concerns.
4. Because this is an "adaptive test", questions are chosen for you on the basis of your answers to previous questions. You must answer every question when it is first given and there is no returning to previous questions.
5. If you do not know the answer to a question, try to logically eliminate one or more of the choices then pick one of the remaining choices.
6. You are not allowed to use dictionaries, calculators, notebooks, or textbooks of any kind on the test. Scratch paper for solving math problems will be provided by the test administrator. Any student who gives or receives help during the test, or uses notes or books of any kind will not be allowed to continue the test. Following your test period, no test materials or notes may be removed from the room.
7. Remember to bring your social security number and some form of picture I.D. with you to the testing session.
8. Good luck!! (from <http://www.monroecc.edu/depts/counsel/placementtest.htm>)