

ACCUPLACER On-Line
STUDY GUIDE
Sacramento City College

About the Assessments

The College Board developed the ACCUPLACER Computerized Placement Tests (CPTs) with the help of committees of college faculty, to provide information about your level of skill accomplishment in English reading and writing, English as a second Language (ESL), and mathematics. Sacramento City College (SCC) may use your results and other information that you provide to help determine which courses are most appropriate for you at this time.

There are eight computerized placement tests available in the ACCUPLACER program. The tests cover several skill areas including English reading and writing, English as a second language (ESL), arithmetic, elementary algebra and college-level mathematics. You will not be taking all eight tests. The number of tests presented depends upon the type of assessment you request.

Score Reporting

When you have completed the tests you may see a report of your scores on the screen and you may receive a printed report of your scores. When you have completed the testing, follow the instructions of the Test Administrator. Your scores can only be obtained through the Sacramento City College Assessment Center.

It is important that you answer each question to the best of your ability. Scores will be used to recommend course placements. Failure to do your very best may result in course placements that are too low for your current skill level.

Who Should Take the Tests?

These are not “entrance” tests to determine if you will be accepted to attend Sacramento City College. The purpose of the tests is to help find the correct academic level for you to begin your studies at SCC.

Most SCC Counselors require test results in working with you to plan a course of study. You must have test results in order to attend new student Orientation. For some courses, test results can be used to satisfy pre-requisite requirements and advisories.

Your score on the Reading Comprehension test can be used to satisfy your reading competency requirement for graduation but only on your first or second attempt. It is important to take your time and do your best!

The Accuplacer Tests can be used to satisfy Federal Ability to Benefit requirements.

When and Where are the Tests Given?

Tests are given frequently throughout the year. You may obtain the Assessment Center testing schedule in our office, Student Services Building room 121; by listening to our recorded phone message at (916) 558-2540; or accessing our web site, <http://www.scc.losrios.edu/~matric/assessment/>. Testing is also available at our SCC outreach centers: Downtown, (916) 558-2640, Davis, (530) 747-5200, and West Sacramento, (916) 375-5511. Please call the Center you are interested in attending to find out about testing.

All on campus ACCUPLACER testing is conducted in the Assessment Testing Center Lab in the Student Services Building, room 122.

Fees for ACCUPLACER

There is no fee for taking the ACCUPLACER Computerized Placement Tests.

Special Arrangements for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented physical or learning disability or a temporarily disabling condition that will prevent you from taking the tests under standard conditions, inform the Test Administrator before taking the tests.

What to Take With You to the Tests?

On the day of the test, you should be sure to bring your Los Rios Student ID number and a recent identification card with your photo on it. **You will not be allowed to take the tests or to obtain a copy of your results without first presenting us with a recent photo I.D.card!**

Confidentiality

Your test scores and the information you provide when taking the tests will only be provided to you, to The College Board, to Sacramento City College representatives and to the state to meet state information requirements. Results may be used for counseling, advisement and placement purposes and to document whether or not you have met certain financial aid qualifications.

Test results are generally available as soon as you finish taking the tests. If you misplace your report, you may obtain a second copy at the SCC Assessment Center, upon presenting a recent photo I. D. card. We will not release your results to instructors or academic departments or to agencies outside the Los Rios Community College District.

Repeat Policy

Because the main reason for taking the ACCUPLACER Tests is to obtain initial placement recommendations, the tests may be taken one time only. If you are dissatisfied with your results, you may speak with your SCC Counselor and obtain a referral for retesting.

COMPUTER DELIVERED TESTING

You will take the tests using a computer. You will use either the keyboard or the mouse to enter your answers and supply other information. A Test Administrator will always be present should you have any questions or problems.

Tutorial

If you are not comfortable using a computer keyboard or mouse, you may want to take the tutorial available on the screen before you begin your tests. A Test Administrator will be available to help you get started.

Answering the Questions

Because you take the ACCUPLACER tests on a computer, you do not have to answer as many questions as on traditional paper/pencil tests. The number of questions on each test ranges from 12 to 25. The questions appear one at a time on the computer screen. All questions are multiple choice, and all you will need to do is use the Enter key or MOUSE to select an answer. When you have completed the question and confirmed your answer, a new screen will appear with your next question.

Adaptive Testing

Each test is adaptive. This means that the computer automatically determines which questions are presented to you based on your responses to prior questions. This technique selects just the right questions to ask without being too easy or too difficult.