New Student Placement Test
Preparation Booklet

Placement Testing Center
Capital Community College
950 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103
860.906.5089
INTRODUCTION

Your Academic journey at Capital begins with your success in taking the ACCUPLACER Placement Test.

The purpose of ACCUPLACER tests is to provide you with useful information about your academic skills in Math, English, and Reading. The results of this computerized test, in conjunction with your academic background, goals, and interests, are used by academic advisors and counselors to determine your course selection. You can not "pass" or "fail" the placement tests, but it is very important that you do your very best on these tests so that you will have an accurate measure of your academic skills.

If you do not know the answer to a question, try to eliminate one or more of the choices. Then pick from the remaining choices.

The ACCUPLACER consists of two distinct tests: 1) General Placement Test and 2) English As-A-Second Language (ESL) Test.

You should take the General Placement Test English portion of the assessment if:

(1) English is your first language or if

(2) English is your second language but you graduated from a U.S. high school with at least 3 years of mainstream English (not ESL) classes.

(3) If English is not your first language, in most cases you should take the ESL test. This test is designed to measure the skills of students who are non-native speakers of English. The test will determine the students' ESL level and make the appropriate placement for students.

If you are pursuing a degree at CCC or planning to enroll in a course with a math requirement, you will only need to take the math section of the General Placement test. ESL students should wait to get their ESL results before signing up for the Math portion of the test.

Best Of Luck!
NEW STUDENT PLACEMENT TESTING

ACCUPLACER General Placement Test

ACCUPLACER is an adaptive test. This means that the questions are chosen for you on the basis of your answers to previous questions. This technique selects just the right questions for your ability level. Because the test works this way, you must answer every question when it is first given. Each test is untimed so that you can give each question as much thought as you wish. You can change your answer to a particular question before moving on to the next question, but you cannot leave a question out or come back to it later to change your answer.

The placement tests may consist of:

- Answering questions covering reading, mathematics, writing and language use skills
- Writing an essay on a familiar topic
- All questions are multiple choice, except the essay

Written Essay

This test measures your ability to write effectively, which is critical to academic success.

Your writing sample will be scored on the basis of how effectively it communicates a whole message to the readers for the stated purpose. Your score will be based on your ability to express, organize, and support your opinions and ideas, not the position you take on the essay topic. The following five characteristics of writing will be considered:

Focus—The clarity with which you maintain your main idea or point of view
Organization—The clarity with which you structure your response and present a logical sequence of ideas
Development and Support—The extent to which you elaborate on your ideas and the extent to which you present supporting details
Sentence Structure—The effectiveness of your sentence structure
Mechanical Conventions—The extent to which your writing is free of errors in usage and mechanics
**Sentence Skills:**

There are 20 Sentence Skills questions of two types.

The first type is **sentence correction** questions that require an understanding of sentence structure. These questions ask you to choose the most appropriate word or phrase to substitute for the underlined portion of the sentence.

The second type is **construction shift** questions. These questions ask that a sentence be rewritten according to the criteria shown while maintaining essentially the same meaning as the original sentence.

Within these two primary categories, the questions are also classified according to the skills being tested. Some questions deal with the logic of the sentence, others with whether or not the answer is a complete sentence, and still others with the relationship between coordination and subordination.

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**Reading Comprehension**

There are 20 questions of two primary types on the Reading Comprehension test.

1) The first type consists of a reading passage followed by a question based on the text. Both short and long passages are provided. The reading passages can also be classified according to the kind of information processing required including explicit statements related to the main idea, explicit statements related to a secondary idea, application, and inference.

2) The second type of question, sentence relationships, presents two sentences followed by a question about the relationship between these two sentences. The question may ask, for example, if the statement in the second sentence supports that in the first, if it contradicts it, or if it repeats the same information.
**Arithmetic**

This test measures your ability to perform basic arithmetic operations and to solve problems that involve fundamental arithmetic concepts. There are 17 questions on the Arithmetic tests divided into three types.

- Operations with whole numbers and fractions: topics included in this category are addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, recognizing equivalent fractions and mixed numbers, and estimating.
- Operations with decimals and percents: topics include addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with decimals. Percent problems, recognition of decimals, fraction and percent equivalencies, and problems involving estimation are also given.
- Applications and problem solving: topics include rate, percent, and measurement problems, simple geometry problems, and distribution of a quantity into its fractional parts.

**Elementary Algebra**

A total of 12 questions are administered in this test.

1) The first type involves operations with integers and rational numbers, and includes computation with integers and negative rationals, the use of absolute values, and ordering.

2) A second type involves operations with algebraic expressions using evaluation of simple formulas and expressions, and adding and subtracting monomials and polynomials. Questions involve multiplying and dividing monomials and polynomials, the evaluation of positive rational roots and exponents, simplifying algebraic fractions, and factoring.

3) The third type of question involves the solution of equations, inequalities, word problems, solving linear equations and inequalities, the solution of quadratic equations by factoring, solving verbal problems presented in an algebraic context, including geometric reasoning and graphing, and the translation of written phrases into algebraic expressions.
AccuPlacer General Placement Test

College Level Math

There are 20 questions on the College-Level Mathematics.

The College-Level Mathematics test assesses from intermediate algebra through pre-calculus.

- Algebraic operations include simplifying rational algebraic expressions, factoring, expanding polynomials, and manipulating roots and exponents.
- Solutions of equations and inequalities includes the solution of linear and quadratic equations and inequalities, equation systems and other algebraic equations.
- Coordinate geometry includes plane geometry, the coordinate plane, straight lines, conics, sets of points in the plane, and graphs of algebraic functions.
- Applications and other algebra topics ask about complex numbers, series and sequences, determinants, permutations and combinations, fractions, and word problems.
- The last category, functions and trigonometry, presents questions about polynomials, algebraic, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions.

How do I schedule a time to take the ACCUPLACER General Placement Test?

The assessment is on a first come, first serve basis. Students must come to Room 220 and are highly encouraged to arrive 30 minutes for a 'Welcome' workshop before the assessment start time.

What should I bring when I come to take the test?

- A photo ID (i.e. driver's license or school ID)
- Your 8 digit Banner ID Number
- A writing utensil (pen/pencil)
- Scrap paper will be provided.
- **NO CALCULATORS** are allowed!
Can I be exempt from the test?

Yes, you can be exempt from the Math/ English portions of the assessment if you meet one of the following requirements:

- Completion of a college English Composition or college Mathematics course with a grade of "C" or better. (A copy of a college transcript/grade report is required)
- Achieving a score of 450 or above on the verbal/critical reading portion of the SAT exam and/or a score of 500 or above on the Math portion of the SAT exam.

*Students, 62 years or older are exempt from the entire test.*

Can I retake the test?

In most cases retaking the test is not allowed, so we encourage you to be serious and committed to doing your best. Schedule your test for a time when you will not be distracted or rushed. Only in exceptional circumstances with signed permission from Dean Doris Arrington will we allow students to retake the test. Test retake forms are available in the Placement Testing Center.

For more information, please visit the Placement Testing Center in Room 220, or call 860.906.5089.
NEW STUDENT PLACEMENT TEST

ACCUPLACER ESL Test

The ACCUPLACER ESL assesses your English skills if you have learned English as an additional language to your native or first language. The ACCUPLACER ESL is divided into three sections. The test is in English, and all instructions are given in English. You cannot use a dictionary or an electronic translator, and you cannot bring friends or family members into the testing room to interpret for you. We want to measure your English skills in order to match you with the class that can best help you.

**ESL Writing Sample**

Prior to the computerized test, students will be required to complete a handwritten essay. This handwritten essay will be used to accurately assess your fundamental writing skills.

**ESL Reading Skills**

The Reading Skills test evaluates comprehension of short passages. There are 20 questions to this test. The content of passage is varied and deals with a variety of subjects including the arts, human relationships, physical science, history, social sciences, and practical situations.

- Half of the Reading Skills test contains straightforward comprehension items (paraphrasing, locating information, vocabulary on a phrase level, and pronoun reference).

- The other half assesses inference skills (main idea, fact vs. opinion, cause/effect logic, identifying irrelevant information, author's point of view, and applying the author's logic to another situation)
ACCUPLACER ESL Test

ESL Sentence Meaning
Sentence Meaning assesses the understanding of word meanings in one or two-sentence contexts. There are 20 questions to this test. The sentences draw from the content areas of natural science, arts/humanities, human relationships, history, social sciences, and practical situations.

- Subject-verb agreement
- Verb tenses
- Irregular verbs
- Noun forms and pronouns
- Modifiers and comparatives
- Prepositions of direction and place
- Comparatives, connectives, and commands

ESL Language Use
The Language Use test measures grammar and usage. There are 20 questions to this test. It contains questions in two formats: completing a sentence by filling in a blank with the word or phrase from the choices given, and choosing a sentence that best combines two given discrete sentences.

- Subject-verb agreement
- Verb tenses
- Irregular verbs
- Noun forms and pronouns
- Modifiers and comparatives
- Prepositions, connectives, and parallelism
- Sentence fragments or run-on sentences

Students must first report to room 408, (4th floor) before coming to Room 220, to take the test.

For more information, please contact Carl Guerriere at 860.906.5203, Room 406.
Tips for Taking the ACCUPLACER Tests

1. Relax!

2. You will be able to concentrate better on the assessment if you get plenty of rest and eat properly prior to the assessment. You should also arrive a few minutes early so you can find the testing area, bathrooms, etc., and gather your thoughts before the assessment begins.

3. Pay careful attention to directions, and be sure you understand the directions before you begin each test.

4. You should understand that this is an adaptive test. Questions are chosen for you on the basis of your answers to previous questions. Because the test works this way, you must answer every question; you may change the answer on a particular question before you have moved ahead to another question.

5. If you do not know the answer to a question, try to eliminate one or more of the choices.

6. Remember to bring a picture I.D.