

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Once you have applied for admission and been accepted, your next step is placement testing. All College Credit Plus students at Columbus State must complete placement testing for reading and writing. Math and Science placement tests are required for students who will take college-level math or science (biology, chemistry, or physics).

Do I Need to Take the Placement Tests?

Qualifying ACT or SAT scores, or official transcripts with qualifying college credit can be used for college course placement. Meet with your guidance counselor if you have any of the following.

ACT & SAT Cut Scores			
Placement Test	ACT	SAT (Feb 2016 & Prior)	SAT (March 2016 & Later)
Math Placement Test	Math 20	Math 480	Math 510
Writing Placement Test	English 18	Writing 430	Evidence based Reading and Writing
Reading Placement Test	Reading 22	Critical Reading 450	490
Science Readiness Assessment	Science 22	Sum of Critical Reading and Math 980	Composite Score 980

What Tests Do I Have to Take and When?

Reading and Writing Placement Tests

Both tests are required prior to registering for your first semester of classes.

Mathematics Placement Test

Required before registering for any math or statistics course, or courses with math prerequisites.

Science Placement Test

Required only if you are taking college-level biology, chemistry, or physics and have not completed a qualifying prerequisite high school science course with a grade of C or above.

****Reading and Writing Placement Tests will be given at Brookpark on Monday, May 15th****



Writing Placement Test

Untimed. Allow about 1 hour to complete. You will read a short passage that ends with a writing prompt, develop an opinion with supporting reasons, explanations, and examples, and then compose a 300-600 word essay (on a computer) in standard, edited English.

www.csc.edu/writingplacement for more information.

Reading Placement Test

Untimed. Allow about 1 hour to complete. 20 multiple-choice questions. Two types of questions: comprehension and sentence relationships.

www.csc.edu/readingplacement for more information.

Science Placement Test

Untimed. Allow about 1 hour to complete. 25 multiple-choice questions. Covers topics in biology, chemistry, and physics. Evaluates a student's readiness to be successful in college-level science courses.

www.csc.edu/scienceplacement for more information.



ALEKS Math Placement

Step 1: Complete an initial assessment.

May be taken on any computer with internet access: home, school, library.

Step 2: Complete 5 hours of study in your Prep and Learning module.

May be completed anywhere you have internet access. Required before you may take your official Mathematics Placement Test.

Step 3: Take your official Math Placement Test.

Must be taken in a proctored setting at your school or at any Columbus State Testing Center.

Untimed. Allow about 2 hours to complete.

www.csc.edu/mathplacement for more information.

How are placement scores used?

Your placement scores show areas in which you are strong and areas in which you may need to improve. Major subject areas where you may be having difficulties are identified so you can take action before your educational progress is disrupted. You and your high school can use your placement scores to determine your placement into College Prep Math or your eligibility for College Credit Plus classes and other K-12 programs.

What should I do before registering to take my placement tests?

Your first step is to apply and be accepted by Columbus State Community College. You should apply at least 2 weeks before the placement test is scheduled at your school to guarantee your eligibility to take the test.

To apply, go to the following link where the Get Started Guide will take you through the application process: www.csc.edu/admissions/stepbystep/

After applying to Columbus State, you will be issued a Cougar Identification Number approximately 48 hours from the time of successful submission of your application. Columbus State will send you an email with your Cougar ID number. Make sure to give your Cougar ID number to your school contact person who will need it in order to register you for the test(s).

Should I review for the placement tests?

Yes! Review information you've already learned because your scores will determine whether you are eligible to participate in the K-12 programs offered at your school.

Reviewing for the Placement Tests

Placement tests are very important and should be taken seriously. These tests serve as a gateway to educational opportunities for you. There are extensive review sites you can access before taking your placement tests, as well as a free Accuplacer App. We strongly encourage you to take the time to review your reading, writing/grammar, math, and science skills prior to taking the placement tests.

Free Accuplacer Study App

CollegeBoard

THE OFFICIAL
FREE
ACCUPLACER®
STUDY APP

- Become familiar with the style and content of test questions.
- Access interactive ACCUPLACER sample questions.
- Get immediate explanations of correct or incorrect answers.

Includes interactive practice tests in:

- Arithmetic
- Elementary Algebra
- College-Level Math
- Reading Comprehension
- Sentence Skills

To get the free Web-based app, visit accuplacer.collegeboard.org/mobile. Custom Placement are available for North Carolina State and Indiana. To learn more about ACCUPLACER visit accuplacer.collegeboard.org

Study Websites – Reading and Writing

<https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/accuplacer/accuplacer-sample-questions-for-students.pdf>

http://college.cengage.com/dev/english/resources/writing_ace/students/index.html

<http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwrtp/instrdg.htm>

<http://cms.cerritos.edu/reading/rc-tutorials-home.htm>

Study Websites – Math

www.math.com

www.purplemath.com

www.sosmath.com

www.algebrahelp.com

Tips for Taking the Placement Test

General test taking tips

- Relax! The placement test is designed to help you succeed in school.
- Get plenty of rest and eat properly before the test.
- Be sure you understand the directions for each test before the test session begins. Ask questions if you need to.
- Read each question carefully until you understand what the question is asking. If answering an item requires several steps, be sure you consider them all.
- Don't be afraid to change an answer if you believe that your first choice was wrong.
- Don't rush through the test.
- Work at a comfortable pace and don't worry about other testers.
- Use the process of elimination to answer questions.
- Use the draft paper provided to write an outline or draft of your essay before typing.

Tips for the writing section

- Read the passage and writing prompt slowly and carefully.
- Choose a side. Answer the test question by choosing a side. Stick to your position and make sure everything you write relates to the topic and your view.
- Be clear about your main idea. Write a sentence that includes your main idea (your answer to the question) and put it at the end of the first paragraph.
- Develop your topic. Write at least 3 examples or short stories to support your answer to the question (your main idea). Why did you choose that side?
- Always write in complete sentences. Each sentence must have a noun and a verb.
- Vary your sentences.
- Organize your essay. Write a 5 paragraph essay that includes:
 - An introduction paragraph with a sentence about your main idea.
 - Three body paragraphs with your reasons and examples (stories).
 - A conclusion paragraph restating your main idea.

Tips for the reading section

- Follow the five-step strategy:
 - Scan the selection for the topic or purpose
 - Skim the question
 - Read actively
 - Reflect
 - Answer the question
- Determine the main idea of the text.
- Determine if a question is asking for literal comprehension or inferential comprehension. Answers to literal comprehension questions can be found in the text. Inferential comprehension requires you to make meaningful connections.
- Read ALL options before choosing one.
- Revisit the text if you are not sure of an answer, as it may be in the paragraph.
- Distinguish between main ideas, purpose of the paragraph, and supporting details.
- Qualifiers such as “generally”, “often”, “usually” are frequently true. Absolutes such as “never” and “always” are frequently false.

Tips for the math placement test

- Take full advantage of your Prep and Learning module. Spend as much time as you want or need refining and refreshing your mathematical skills before taking your proctored assessment.
- Take your time!
- The ALEKS math test is responsive pushing you up levels of difficulty as you get answers correct. The more consecutive questions you get right, the higher the level.
- Use your calculator to your advantage when it is provided for your use throughout the test.
- Know your formulas.
- Know how to plug numbers into an equation/expression.
- Know how to factor.