

THE TRUTH ABOUT PLACEMENT TESTING

We know that testing may seem like a waste of time or even a little scary. But we need the information to help you identify courses that will prepare you to be successful and that will lead to your graduation. You want to do your best so that you can place as high as possible. If you place lower than your actual skill level, you will probably need to take an extra class.

PREPARE TO DO YOUR BEST

To make the best of your placement testing, invest some time to become familiar with the test and to refresh skills that you may not have used recently.

To practice math concepts included in Accuplacer and links to support material:

www.raritanval.edu/AccuplacerMathTopics

To review sample essays, go to <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/accuplacer-writeplacer-sample-essays.pdf>

To review sample ESL essays, go to <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/accuplacer-writeplacer-esl-sample-essays.pdf>

A free web-based Official Accuplacer Study app is available at accuplacerpractice.collegeboard.org.

To get an idea of how the test is constructed, go to www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/accuplacer

To take a quick practice test, go to <http://accuprep.pccc.edu/>

For additional Math and Writing resources, go to the resource section of the Academic Support Center website -- www.raritanval.edu/studenterv/asc/index.html

If you require testing accommodations due to a documented disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 908-526-1200 Ext. 8534 or email disabilityservices2@raritanval.edu to apply for accommodations before taking the Placement Exam.

TAKE THE TEST

Accuplacer is a computer-based test. It uses adaptive technology to personalize the test for you, providing us with the information we need while limiting the number of questions you need to answer. Simplistically, this is how it works: if you answer a question correctly, the next one is more difficult. If you answer a question incorrectly, the next one is a little easier. It's helpful to understand going into the test that there will be questions you do not have answers for. That's okay!

No appointment is needed for testing – check www.raritanval.edu/testing for current hours and allow about 2 ½ hours to complete the test. You will need to bring a picture ID. All other material will be supplied – pencil, scrap paper and an on-screen calculator (when appropriate for math questions). Sign in at the counter when you arrive in the Testing Center, listen to your instructions, take a deep breath and take the test.

WHAT'S NEXT?

With this type of testing, we can provide most student's results and placements immediately after the test, even when there is an essay requirement, because it is scored using algorithms and artificial intelligence. Please note: ESL students will not receive scores immediately. You have to meet with a faculty member for a speaking assessment and to receive your placement.

Testing Center staff will review your scores and placements with you. That staff member may also suggest a section(s) that you might consider retesting after more review to improve your placement. You may retest a section up to two times and there is a \$10 fee for each section that you retest. If you do not think the results represent the skills you have, go back to the websites, refresh those skills and test that section again.

ACCUPLACER PLACEMENT TEST

What is Accuplacer?

ACCUPLACER is an adaptive test. This means that the 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 when it is first given. 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. Although each test is untimed (except the essay), please allow 2 to 3 hours for testing.

Who must take Accuplacer?

- A Full-time or part-time student seeking a degree
- A non degree student wishing to enroll in an English or Math course
- A student wishing to take a course requiring English or Math as a pre-requisite
- A student with Math SAT Scores of at least 550 seeking to take a math class beyond Pre-calculus 1
- A student whose first language is NOT English must take the Level of English Proficiency (ESL) Accuplacer test.

You may be exempt from testing if you meet one of the following criteria:

- Took Accuplacer at another New Jersey college
- Have completed at least 24 college credits including mathematics
- Satisfactorily completed college credit classes in English and Mathematics
- If your SAT, ACT, or PARCC scores are:

| <i>SAT Score Before MARCH 2016</i> | <i>SAT After MARCH 1st 2016</i> | <i>ACT Score</i> | <i>PARCC</i> | <i>Placement</i> |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------|--|--|
| Reading 540 | Evidence-Based Reading Writing 450 | Reading 24 | English Literacy Arts Grade 11 4 or 5 | English I |
| Math 530 – 540 | Math 500 – 549 | Math 22 | Algebra II 4 or 5 | A selection of Non Math Intensive College Level Math courses (depending on major) or Intermediate Algebra |
| Math 550 + | Math 550 | Math 23 | | Pre-Calculus, Statistics, or a selection of other College Level Math courses (depending on major) |

If you feel you meet one of these exemptions, transcripts or other documentation **must be provided as proof**.

When and where can I take Accuplacer?

Testing is offered throughout the year on a walk-in basis in the Testing Center, Room L029. No appointment is necessary.

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|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Monday through Thursday | 8:30 am – 8:00 pm |
| Friday | 9:00 am – 4:30 pm |
| Saturday | 9:00 am – 1:00 pm |

The Testing Center is closed on Saturdays during the summer.

Hours are subject to change during the summer, between semesters, and holidays. Be certain to **allow enough time** to finish before the Testing Center closes. Please visit www.raritanval.edu/testing or call 908-526-1200 ext. 8401 to verify availability.

What should I bring to the test?

Please bring a PHOTO ID and your student ID number. Paper and pencil are allowed. Calculators, and/or pocket translators are NOT PERMITTED during the test. Cell Phones must be turned off and placed in a provided container.

How can I prepare for the test?

It is important that you review before testing. See the other side of this document for preparation information.

What subject areas will be on the Accuplacer test?

- College Level English/Math testing will consist of: Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills, a timed essay, and math.
- Levels of English Proficiency (LOEP) or ESL testing may consist of: Reading, Language Use, Sentence Meaning, a Listening section, and a timed essay.

What is the Cost?

There is no initial fee for taking the placement test. For each retest (up to two more times) there is a fee of \$10.00 per section payable by cash or check.

Test Results

For English and math testing, Testing Center Staff will immediately review your scores and placement upon completion of your test. For ESL testing, an additional speaking assessment is required. ESL testers will be given a schedule for when they can meet with a faculty advisor.