

Accuplacer TEST Student Guide

What is Accuplacer?

Spoon River College uses a computer-based placement test called **Accuplacer**. Students will be assessed in writing, reading and math. Although testing is done on a computer, no computer experience is required. Directions are clearly stated, and help is always available. With the exception of the Essay portion on the test (60 minutes) there is no time limit so you should work carefully and at your own pace. Each Accuplacer test section has a designated number of questions: Reading Comprehension (20 questions), Sentence Skills (20 questions), Elementary Algebra (12 questions), Arithmetic (17 questions), College Algebra (20 questions). Students may be required to take all or only part of the Accuplacer based on a review of high school transcript, ACT, and/or SAT scores.

Why do I need to take Accuplacer?

Spoon River College students arrive on campus with varied skill levels and life experiences. Students come to us directly from high school, from other colleges, and from work-related backgrounds. In order to give students the best opportunity for academic success, students and advisors need to know current levels of achievement, and Accuplacer gives that needed information. The goal of the assessment is to place students in the correct courses according to their current academic achievement levels. SRC can also use ACT/SAT/High School transcript results for placement. Students must meet required scores on the ACT or SAT to be exempt from Accuplacer testing; required scores may be found in the chart below. High school transcripts that indicate a student has earned a “B” or better in Algebra II and Geometry or a higher level math can be exempt from taking the Math portion of the Accuplacer test.

How are the Accuplacer scores used?

The ACCUPLACER is graded on a scale of 20-120. Because the test helps determine whether you are ready for college-level courses, a student cannot pass or fail the examination. Depending on how you score, you may be required to take developmental course to help prepare you for college-level courses. Scores are available as soon as testing is completed. Test results help you and your academic advisor select classes and plan an appropriate course of study. The tests are not used to determine admission to the college and there is no charge for the test. However, a \$5.00 retest fee per test portion will apply if you were not happy with the first set of results.

How can I prepare for the Accuplacer?

The best way to prepare for the test is to review sample questions at <https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/students> or view the app at <https://accuplacerpractice.collegeboard.org/>. Students with special needs or students with special testing considerations should contact the Disability Services Advisor prior to testing. Students may phone (309)649-6305 to talk about possible testing accommodations.

Accuplacer Reading Test

The reading comprehension test consists of short passage followed by a multiple choice question. Scores on the reading placement exam are used to place students in reading classes and to indicate ability to be successful in college level courses.

Accuplacer Writing Test

This test is given in two parts. Part I is the Sentence Skills portion that requires the student to take an existing sentence and write it so that it is grammatically correct. Part II (WritePlacer) requires the student to write an essay based on a given prompt within a 60 minute time frame.

Accuplacer Mathematics Test

The math placement test consists of problems in arithmetic, elementary algebra, and college algebra. Most students will begin in the elementary algebra test. Calculators are provided for some of the questions and will be available on the computer when needed. Questions must be answered in the order they are presented. Items may not be skipped and answered later or reviewed at the end of the test. Scores from the math test are used for placement into math courses.

The following information will help you have a positive Accuplacer test experience:

- Allow about 1.5 to 2 hours to take the test. *However, except for the essay writing portion (60 minutes) it is not a timed test.*
- Turn off all cell phones and pagers.
- No food or drinks allowed in the testing area.
- Please leave children at home and plan on a babysitter if needed.
- Bring photo id and know your SRC student ID number
- Be rested and ready to concentrate.
- Answer each question carefully.
- Take a break between tests, if necessary.
- Ask the test administrator for help if you are unsure about directions.
- Don't be concerned if others finish before you. Remember, other students may be taking different portions of the exam than you are, and people finish testing at different times.
- Plan to do your best the first time you test. If, however, you feel your placement does not reflect your true ability, you may retest one time before taking classes in the subject area. There will be a \$5.00 retest *fee per portion of the test repeated.*

WHEN AND WHERE CAN I TEST?

Testing is done on a walk-in basis from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Student Services Department at Spoon River College Canton and Macomb sites. Please call the Rushville or Havana sites to set up an appointment during their regular office hours from 8:00 a.m-4:30 p.m. at the numbers listed below.

CANTON (309)649-6400 **HAVANA** (309)543-4413 **MACOMB** (309)833-6069 **RUSHVILLE** (217)322-6060

Spoon River College					
Placement Scores					
PLACEMENT	ACCUPLACER	ACT	SAT (prior 3/2016)	SAT (after 3/2016)	PLACEMENT
Math PLACEMENT					
Elementary Algebra	20-35				MAT012 or Arithmetic test
	36-79				MAT016
	80-99				MAT061 or College Math Test
	100-120	19+ (Math)	480+ (Math)	480+ (Math)	College Level Ready - MAT102, MAT125, MAT132 or College Math Test
Arithmetic	20-49				MAT012
	50+				MAT016
College Math	20-59				Elementary Algebra Placement Results
	60-79	19+ (Math)	480+ (Math)	480+ (Math)	College Level Ready - MAT102, MAT125, MAT132
	80-99				College Level Ready - MAT102, MAT125, MAT132, MAT126, MAT133
	100-120				College Level Ready - MAT102, MAT125, MAT132, MAT126, MAT133, MAT151
READING PLACEMENT	20-42				Take the SDRT to determine reading level
	43-89				RDG099; SDRT optional
	90+	19+(Reading)	380+	21+	College Level Ready
ENGLISH PLACEMENT					
Sentence Skills	29-64				ENG090
	65-89				ENG099/ENG101 Combo or ENG091
	90-120	19+(English)	450+	26+	College Level Ready
OR					
WritePlacer	4 or below				ENG090
	5				ENG099/ENG101 Combo or ENG091
	6-8	19+(English)	N/A	N/A	College Level Ready