

ACCUPLACER - Placement Testing Preparation

ACCUPLACER TESTING at Stark State College

- ACCUPLACER is not used like a traditional test. There is generally no "passing score.
- ACCUPLACER scores indicate areas in which you are strong and areas in which you may need help.
- Incoming students must take the ACCUPLACER placement test unless they have ACT scores or college credit that waives this requirement. (ACT scores are valid for 2 years.)
- As a service to students, there is **no fee charged**.
- ACCUPLACER test results place you in the reading, writing, and math courses that will help you to have greater success in your future course work.
- The test is **not timed** and generally takes 90 minutes to complete.
- If you have any **special needs, contact Disabilities Support Services** at 330-494-6170, Ext. 4935.
- Testing is available **Monday through Friday** in the Admissions Office, Room M110a, located in the Gateway Center.
- To schedule an appointment, call **330-494-6170, Ext. 4228**.

Prepare for the ACCUPLACER Test by taking a sample test

[ACCUPLACER Sample Questions](#)

Listed below are items to brush up on for reading, mathematics, writing as well as websites that will be helpful.

Reading

- Main ideas, general versus specific ideas
- Implied ideas, vocabulary in context
- Topic sentences

Mathematics

- Pre-Algebra: Fractions, Percentages, Decimals, Averages, Ratio & Proportion
- Algebra: Exponents, Factoring, Graphing, Polynomials, Linear Equation
- Khan Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/math>

****Test Taking Tip****

RELAX! 😊 The ACCUPLACER tests are designed to help you succeed in school. Your scores help you and your institution determine which courses are most appropriate for your current level of

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knowledge and skills. Once you identify your academic strengths and weaknesses, you can get the help you need to improve underdeveloped skills before they interfere with your learning.

ACCUPLACER Writing Prep

Your score is based on your ability to express, organize, and support your opinions and ideas. The position you take on the essay topic doesn't affect your score.

Writing

The WritePlacer test measures your ability to write effectively, which is critical to academic success. The position you take on the essay topic does not affect your score.

The following six characteristics of writing will be considered:

- 1) Purpose and focus
- 2) Organization and structure
- 3) Development and support
- 4) Sentence variety and style
- 5) Critical thinking
- 6) Mechanical conventions

Purpose and Focus – The extent to which you present information in a unified and coherent manner, clearly addressing the issue.

- Answer the question
- Try to paraphrase the question
- Have a point
- Stay on point
- All your smaller points should add up to your larger point

Organization and Structure – The extent to which you order and connect ideas.

- New paragraph when you switch ideas
- Smooth progression of ideas
- Pay attention to how you begin/end paragraphs

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Development and Support – The extent to which you develop and support ideas.

- Show, don't tell
- Use evidence:
 - Experiences from your life
 - Examples (hypothetical is okay but real is better)
 - Reasons
 - Opinions
- The more specific and detailed, the better

Sentence Variety and Style – The extent to which you craft sentences and paragraphs demonstrating control of vocabulary, voice, and structure.

- Don't write like you talk
 - Avoid "you" at all costs
- Mix up how you begin your sentences
- Use active verbs--stay away from "be" verbs
- Write formally but with personality

Critical Thinking – The extent to which you communicate a point of view and demonstrate reasoned relationships among ideas.

- Be logical and reasonable
- Delve deeply into your prompt
- Strive for insightfulness
- Resist easy or clichéd thinking

Mechanical Conventions – The extent to which you express ideas using Standard Written English.

Guide to ACCUPLACER Sample Essays - [ACCUPLACER Essay Samples](#)

Writing Placement

ACCUPLACER WritePlacer Score	Course	Course ID
<4	Intro to Academic Writing	ENG 010
4	Academic Writing & College Composition	ENG 011 & ENG 124
5+	College Composition	ENG 124

Introduction to Academic Writing is a five-credit hour developmental course taken before College Composition.

Academic Writing & College Composition allows students to earn college credit while taking a one-credit hour developmental course.

College Composition is a college-level writing course.