The Value of ACCUPLACER®
About ACCUPLACER®

ACCUPLACER® is a computer-adaptive diagnostic, online intervention and placement testing system that assesses student academic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics in an immediate and accurate way. Teachers and counselors can use the results of these assessments to determine students’ strengths and weaknesses and to provide early academic intervention. Administering more than eight million tests per year, the ACCUPLACER system is used by more than 1,300 secondary and postsecondary institutions to place students in the appropriate courses where they can confidently meet classroom requirements.

For further information, visit www.collegeboard.com/accuplacer.

Contact us at: info@accuplacer.org or 866-607-5223.

About the College Board

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of over 6,000 of the world’s leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT® and the Advanced Placement Program®. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators, and schools.

For further information, visit www.collegeboard.org.
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Section 1

The Value of ACCUPLACER®

Identifying students’ academic strengths and weaknesses in preparation for college is more critical than ever to ensure successful transition and persistence in their academic experience.

ACCUPLACER® is an integrated system of computer-adaptive assessments designed to evaluate students’ skills in math, reading, and writing.

Delivering results immediately and precisely, ACCUPLACER offers placement and diagnostics to support intervention and to help answer the challenges of accurate placement and remediation.

Over 7.5 million ACCUPLACER tests are administered annually, connecting more than 2.5 million students to over 1,500 institutions nationwide, including community colleges, four-year colleges, technical schools, and high schools.
Benefits

For Students
ACCUPLACER assessments provide early indicators of students’ preparedness and place them into appropriate college courses where they can confidently meet classroom demands and achieve their academic goals.

ACCUPLACER supports high school students, traditional college-bound students, adult basic education students, and those pursuing career and technical education in their academic and career journey.

→ **Personalized**: Computer-adaptive assessments are less stressful for students because the difficulty level adjusts to each student’s ability.

→ **Skill-Based**: The suite of assessments evaluates a broad range of skills and lets students demonstrate their abilities.

→ **Untimed**: Untimed exams allow students to have a more comfortable testing experience.

→ **Preparation Tools**: The free Web-based study applications offer students the opportunity to prepare by featuring interactive sample questions and immediate explanations of correct or incorrect answers.

For Educators
Educators, counselors, and testing directors rely on ACCUPLACER’s quality and reliability as they guide students to smart decisions about choosing the courses and pathways that support their college goals.

→ **Ease of Use**: Assess students quickly and accurately. Easily differentiate among test-takers across a wide range of levels with fewer items and in less time than with traditional tests.

→ **Adaptive**: Computer-adaptive design personalizes the test for individual test-takers. Score is calculated, and the next-best item is selected based on difficulty level, content, and test specifications.
→ **Affordable**: Administer quality assessments to many students simultaneously at an affordable price, without the costs and difficulties of installing constant software upgrades.

→ **Customizable**: ACCUPLACER offers many features that allow you to customize your students’ placement experience.

  - **Computer Skills Placement**: Offer computer skills placement to assess students’ competency in basic computer skills and place them into programs and/or courses that have computer-driven curricula.
  
  - **Local Tests**: Create your own multiple-choice and multiple-response linear assessments to assess additional skills and receive instant scoring from the ACCUPLACER system.
  
  - **Multiple Measures**: Use background questions, high school GPA, and other test scores in measuring students’ skills for placement purposes.
  
  - **Preparation Tools**: Encourage student preparation with the free Web-based study application, featuring more than 200 interactive sample questions per assessment.
  
  - **Remote Testing Network**: The Remote Testing Network is an option that allows testing centers to proctor exams for students attending other campuses.
  
  - **Reports**: Customize reports and messaging, including student score reports, which have flexible configurations, with student information you have collected.
  
  - **Virtual Remote Proctoring**: Offer secure online proctoring service to allow students to take the assessment online at a time and place that is convenient for them.

→ **Immediate**: Expedite placement with instant scoring. Reports deliver student test scores, customized messages, and information about course placement based on your institution’s placement scores.
Section 2

Enhanced Testing Experience

Sophisticated Platform

ACCUPLACER has a long history of innovation, beginning as the first computer-based testing platform running DOS in 1986. ACCUPLACER moved to the Internet in 1999. The current platform is the third Web-based version. In February 2015, ACCUPLACER delivered a major technology upgrade with several benefits to users, including:

- Simplified user interface designed to streamline account setup and daily operations;
- Enhanced mobile device support to provide both testing and account operation using tablets running iOS and Android operating systems; and
- Updated platform architecture to prepare for future enhancements.
Test Center Management Dashboard

Designed to provide easy access to testing activity, the Dashboard allows a test administrator to view current and past testing activity as well as to authorize testing through vouchers, end testing if necessary, and email scores all from one screen. Because ACCUPLACER is Web-based, the Test Center Management Dashboard is available to the test administrator once logged in without any special installation.

Remote Testing Network

The Remote Testing Network is an option that allows testing centers to proctor exams for students attending other campuses. Within the ACCUPLACER platform, campuses can register as remote testing sites for outside students and also search for remote testing centers convenient for one of their own students. The originating campus sets up the tests required of the student; ACCUPLACER automatically emails information to both the student and the remote testing center.

Students take tests in a proctored setting at the remote site. Scores are automatically sent back to their campus.

Virtual Remote Proctoring

ACCUPLACER has partnered with B Virtual Inc., an approved vendor of the College Board, to offer a secure, online proctoring service that allows your institution’s students to take ACCUPLACER assessments online at a time and place that is convenient for them. This service is:

- **Trustworthy**: Online proctors who monitor student testing are dependable, well trained, and certified.

- **Cost-Effective**: Virtual remote proctoring costs $25 per online proctored session per student.

- **Flexible**: Students can take ACCUPLACER 24/7, anywhere in the world.

Visit [accuadmin.onlineproctornow.com](http://accuadmin.onlineproctornow.com) for more information.
Multiple Weighted Measures

ACCUPACER is designed to incorporate additional indicators in student placement decisions. The program enables colleges, technical schools, and high schools to factor in students’ responses to background questions and combine that information with an ACCUPACER score to inform course placement.

What Are Multiple Weighted Measures?

In the context of course placement, “multiple weighted measures” refers to the use of other critical factors for an individual student. These typically include:

- High school GPA;
- The number of years since a student took a particular course or was in school;
- Other test scores, such as the SAT® or high school end-of-course exams;
- Other noncognitive information, such as motivation, time-management skills, or family support.
Why Use Multiple Measures?
Data points from multiple measures, when combined with placement test scores, can provide a more complete and individualized view of a student’s capacity for success in college-level work.

When placement decisions are made using multiple measures, the result is often a more meaningful, reliable, and valid placement recommendation. By using multiple measures, institutions can create a more refined and multidimensional perspective for each student. And when a student’s placement data are compiled, counselors have a more complete picture — one that supports intervention when necessary and can include recommendations for support in areas such as organizational skills or family outreach.

How to Implement Multiple Measures
The ACCUPLACER platform makes it simple and straightforward to implement multiple measures. We typically advise institutions to determine through data analysis which measures have had the most impact on student success before integrating them into the system.

While there is no limit to the number of measures you can integrate, most institutions conduct validity studies to link specific factors to student success (e.g., the number of years out of school). This aids in making high-stakes, crucial-placement recommendations.
Section 3

Suite of Assessments

1. Placement Assessments
2. WritePlacer®
3. ESL Assessments
4. Diagnostic Assessments
5. Computer Skills Placements
6. Alternative Format Assessments
Placement Assessments

ACCUPLACER placement assessments determine students’ readiness to participate successfully in college-level course work. Untimed and available in five subjects, this suite of assessments is designed for use at high schools and postsecondary institutions.

Reading Comprehension Placement
The Reading Comprehension passages are 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. Students are administered 20 questions.

- Identifying Main Ideas
- Direct Statements and Secondary or Supporting Ideas
- Inferences
- Applications

Sentence Skills Placement
The Sentence Skills test measures students’ understanding of sentence structure (i.e., how sentences are put together and what makes a sentence complete and clear). Students are administered 20 questions.

- Recognizing Complete Sentences
- Coordination and Subordination
- Sentence Relationship

Arithmetic Placement
The Arithmetic test measures students’ ability to perform basic arithmetic operations and to solve problems that involve fundamental arithmetic concepts. Students are administered 17 questions.

- Whole Numbers and Fractions
- Decimals and Percents
- Applications
**Elementary Algebra Placement**

The Elementary Algebra test measures students’ ability to perform basic algebraic operations and to solve problems that involve elementary algebraic concepts. Students are administered 12 questions.

- Integers and Rationals
- Algebraic Expressions
- Equations, Inequalities, and Word Problems

**College-Level Mathematics Placement**

The College-Level Mathematics test measures students’ ability to solve problems that involve college-level mathematics concepts. Students are administered 20 questions.

- Algebraic Operations
- Solutions of Equations and Inequalities
- Coordinate Geometry
- Applications and Other Algebra Topics
- Functions
- Trigonometry
In addition to the multiple-choice tests, ACCUPLACER offers WritePlacer® for native speakers of English and WritePlacer ESL for nonnative speakers. WritePlacer and WritePlacer ESL scores can be used in conjunction with other ACCUPLACER test scores to assist with the placement of students into college-level, developmental, and/or English as a Second Language courses.

Responses are instantly and reliably scored online by the WritePlacer holistic scoring system, a platform that utilizes artificial intelligence to score writing samples and open-ended responses. Instant scoring allows you to incorporate results into branching profiles and placement rules.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>WritePlacer Holistic Score Descriptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>The essay demonstrates <em>clear and consistent mastery</em> of on-demand essay writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The essay demonstrates <em>consistent mastery</em> of on-demand essay writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The essay demonstrates <em>reasonably consistent mastery</em> of on-demand essay writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The essay demonstrates <em>adequate mastery</em> of on-demand essay writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The essay demonstrates <em>developing mastery</em> of on-demand essay writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The essay demonstrates <em>little mastery</em> of on-demand essay writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The essay demonstrates <em>very little mastery</em> of on-demand essay writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The essay demonstrates <em>no mastery</em> of on-demand essay writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No holistic score: This essay has not been given a holistic score or dimensional scores because it is either a blank page, incoherent/illegible, insufficient (too short to assess), is written in a foreign language, or is off topic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WritePlacer Dimensional Statements

→ **Purpose and Focus**: The extent to which the writer presents information in a unified and coherent manner, clearly addressing the issue.

→ **Organization and Structure**: The extent to which the writer orders and connects ideas.

→ **Development and Support**: The extent to which the writer develops and supports ideas.

→ **Sentence Variety and Style**: The extent to which the writer crafts sentences and paragraphs, demonstrating control of vocabulary, voice, and structure.

→ **Mechanical Conventions**: The extent to which the writer expresses ideas using Standard English.

→ **Critical Thinking**: The extent to which the writer communicates a point of view and demonstrates reasoned relationships among ideas.
**WritePlacer ESL Holistic Scoring Rubric**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>WritePlacer ESL Holistic Score Descriptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The writing sample exhibits <em>strong control</em> of the elements of on-demand essay writing in English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The writing sample exhibits <em>consistent control</em> of the elements of on-demand essay writing in English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The writing sample exhibits <em>moderate control</em> of the elements of on-demand essay writing in English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The writing sample exhibits <em>emerging competency</em> in the elements of on-demand essay writing in English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The writing sample exhibits <em>limited competency</em> in the elements of on-demand essay writing in English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The writing sample exhibits <em>little competency</em> in the elements of on-demand essay writing in English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No holistic score. This writing sample has not been given a holistic score or the four dimensional scores because it is either a blank page, incoherent, insufficient (too short to assess), is written in a foreign language, or is off topic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WritePlacer ESL Dimensional Statements**

- **Word Use**: The extent to which the student is able to use a wide range of words and phrases accurately.
- **Sentence Use**: The extent to which the student is able to use a variety of sentence patterns with both independent and dependent clauses.
- **Grammar**: The extent to which the student is able to express ideas using grammatically correct English.
- **Organization and Development**: The extent to which the student is able to focus on the assigned topic and develop ideas clearly.
ESL Assessments

ACCUPLACER ESL gives educators the tools needed for assessing English language learning. These untimed assessments help maximize performance as they test students quickly and efficiently across a wide range of abilities, including writing, which is scored instantly.

ESL Reading

The ESL Reading Skills test consists of 20 questions and assesses students’ comprehension of short passages. The test contains brief passages of 50 words or less and moderate-length passages of 50 to 90 words. There are two content areas:

→ Literal Comprehension  → Inference

ESL Sentence Meaning

The ESL Sentence Meaning test consists of 20 questions and measures how well students understand the meaning of sentences in English. It assesses the understanding of word meanings in one or two sentence contexts. There are four content areas:

→ Particles, Phrasal Verbs, and Prepositions  → Basic Nouns and Verbs
→ Adverbs, Adjectives, and Connectives Sequence  → Basic and Important Idioms
**ESL Language Use**

The ESL Language Use test consists of 20 questions and measures students’ proficiency in using correct grammar in English sentences. There are five content areas that are assessed:

- Nouns, Pronouns, and Pronoun Case Structure
- Sentence Structure
- Subject-Verb Agreement
- Adverbs, Adjectives, and Verbs
- Subordination and Coordination

**ESL Listening**

The ESL Listening test consists of 20 questions and measures the ability of nonnative speakers of English to listen to and understand one or more people speaking in English. There are two content areas assessed:

- Literal Comprehension
  - Identify the main idea or main subject of a passage
  - Identify factual details and information
  - Understand instructions

- Implied Meaning
  - Understand the relationship between ideas (e.g., sequence of events, cause and effect, comparison and contrast, problem and solution)
  - Make inferences
  - Make predictions
  - Identify the speaker’s purpose, tone, or point of view
Diagnostic Assessments

ACCUPLACER diagnostic assessments provide a detailed analysis of a student’s proficiency areas and skill gaps to determine college readiness. Untimed and available in four subjects, this suite of assessments is designed for use at high schools and postsecondary institutions.

→ Provides an immediate, innovative, and comprehensive suite of tools, data, and proficiency statements intended to form intervention programs and college readiness pathways to success.

→ Empowers you to address student remediation issues and develop tutoring and mentoring strategies early.

→ Helps students who are getting ready to take or retake an ACCUPLACER placement test — including high school students, college-bound students, returning college students — to identify areas to focus on for improvement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tests</th>
<th>Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills, Arithmetic, and Elementary Algebra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Items</td>
<td>40 items per test — broken into 5 domains of 8 items each administered consecutively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Untimed (designed for less than 1 hour)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design</td>
<td>Computer Adaptive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
<td>Diagnostic analysis will be assigned according to attributes within each subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functionality</td>
<td>Integrated into the ACCUPLACER suite of tests; set up just like a branching profile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reading Comprehension Diagnostics
- Passage-Based Reading: Identifying Main Ideas
- Passage-Based Reading: Supporting Detail
- Sentence Relationships
- Inference
- Author’s Purpose/Rhetorical Strategies

Sentence Skills Diagnostics
- Agreement
- Modifiers
- Sentence Structure
- Sentence Boundaries
- Diction/Logic

Arithmetic Diagnostics
- Computation with Integers and Fractions
- Computation with Decimal Numbers
- Problems Involving Percentages
- Estimation, Ordering, and Number Sense
- Word Problems and Applications

Elementary Algebra Diagnostics
- Real Numbers
- Linear Equations, Inequalities, and Systems
- Quadratic Expressions and Equations
- Algebraic Expressions and Equations
- Word Problems and Applications
Computer Skills Placement

Computer Skills Placement (CSP), available on the ACCUPLACER system platform, assesses student competency in basic computer skills. Each skill area consists of 10 questions that are a mix of performance-based and multiple-choice items. Results are available as part of the integrated ACCUPLACER scoring reports, with specific scores by skill set to enable you to identify students’ remedial needs.

Benefits of Using CSP

- Assess students’ competency in basic computer skills quickly and accurately;
- Identify students with gaps in computer knowledge;
- Guide students to courses or programs that have a computer-driven curriculum; and
- Ensure that students are ready to effectively interact online with the institution.
Skill Sets Tested

**CSP Advanced**: available on Windows 8/Office 2013 and Windows 7/Office 2010 — contains 70 questions:
1. Basic Concepts of IT
2. Using the Computer and Managing Files
3. Word Processing
4. Spreadsheets
5. Databases
6. Presentations
7. Online Environment

**CSP Basic**: available on Windows 8/2013 and Windows 7/Office 2010 — contains 30 questions:
1. Using the Computer and Managing Files
2. Word Processing
3. Online Environment

**Scoring by Skill Set**

CSP provides an overall score expressed as a percentage of correct answers out of the total. In addition, a percentage of correct answers within each of the skill set block of 10 questions is available at the conclusion of the ACCUPLACER session.
Alternative Format Assessments

ACCUPLACER assessments, including WritePlacer, WritePlacer ESL, and ESL Listening Tests, are designed and administered to ensure that students with disabilities have the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities within the parameters of each test. Accommodations, including, but not limited to, extended time, breaks, readers, scribes, and use of assistive technology, are provided on an as-needed basis.

ACCUPLACER assessments are computer-based and have the Accessibility Wizard software built into the testing environment allowing customized font size and backgrounds to address the needs of students with disabilities in these areas. ACCUPLACER supports use of screen readers that enable blind and visually impaired students to use computers. They access the text on the screen through a computerized voice.

Paper-and-pencil formats, including braille, are available to students who, because of the impact of their disabilities, cannot use a computer-based test.

COMPANION™ Paper-and-Pencil Tests

ACCUPLACER COMPANION™ tests provide a paper-and-pencil format for Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills, Arithmetic, Elementary Algebra, College-Level Math, ESL Reading Skills, ESL Sentence Meaning, ESL Language Use, WritePlacer, and WritePlacer ESL.

COMPANION Special Formats

All ACCUPLACER COMPANION tests are available in standard print, large print, and braille, for students with visual disabilities. An audio CD is available for students requiring that test content be read aloud. Tactile graphics are available to aid visually impaired students in understanding any of the graphs used in a test.
Section 4

Student Preparation Tools

The Free Official Web-Based Study App

This Web-based study app features practice tests in Arithmetic, Elementary Algebra, College-Level Math, Reading Comprehension, and Sentence Skills. It is accessible from any Internet-capable computer and helps students become familiar with the content and format of the ACCUPLACER assessments.

→ “Learn as you go” tests deliver helpful explanations of the correct or incorrect responses.

→ Sample tests are authentic, so students are introduced to the test-day experience.

→ Save and resume feature gives students control of their time and schedule.

→ Students can review score histories to determine where additional practice may be needed.

The study app is available to all students for free. Visit accuplacer.collegeboard.org/store.
Proven Intervention and Remediation Support

ACCUPLACER®/MyFoundationsLab®

Based on a student’s performance on a given diagnostic test, ACCUPLACER®/MyFoundationsLab creates a personalized learning path for each student. It is targeted, just-in-time remediation mapped to address each student’s specific needs.

› Each student receives an individualized learning path using proven tutorials, instruction, and practice.

› Students receive immediate feedback so they can revisit concepts and skills they need to master.

› Students can access this support 24/7 from any Internet-capable device, so they can work at their own pace, according to their own schedules.

› Detailed reporting for students and institutions makes it convenient to monitor progress.

Students show amazing results. Read our case studies at accuplacer.collegeboard.org/resources.

Remediation Planner

As students prepare for the transition from high school to higher education, use of ACCUPLACER Diagnostics can help pinpoint areas where they need additional review or intervention prior to taking placement tests in college. The Remediation Planner is a tool to assist faculty in interpreting the data from Diagnostics and planning instruction by recommending topics for study.

Download the Remediation Planner at accuplacer.collegeboard.org/resources.
Section 5

Services

Professional Development

Our on-demand professional development sessions are designed for faculty and testing professionals who want to learn more about ACCUPLACER products, best practices, and the testing system. Attend a session to learn more.

accuplacer.collegeboard.org/professionals

Support Team

The ACCUPLACER customer service team supports ACCUPLACER’s computer-adaptive testing and COMPANION suite of paper-and-pencil and nonstandard format tests. ACCUPLACER customer service support is staffed from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET each weekday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, excluding holidays.

For support, please contact 866-607-5223 or email info@accuplacer.org.
ACCUPLACER customer service is also available by live chat.

Another resource available to institutional users is the Knowledge Base tool on the ACCUPLACER system. Knowledge Base allows users to search information by topic and question to obtain answers to common questions.