

# WARREN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PLACEMENT TEST BOOKLET

## **Purpose of the test:**

Now that you have been admitted to Warren County Community College, you will need to take the Placement Test. This test is designed to provide information about your skills in the English language and in mathematics. The test results will be used in conjunction with other information, to place you in the appropriate course(s). If a need for academic preparation is indicated by the test score(s), you will be placed in the appropriate non-credit preparatory course(s). The test measures your skills and yields scores in reading comprehension, composition, basic math, and elementary algebra. The test is not timed and consists of multiple-choice questions and an essay.

## **Who must take the test:**

Full-time and part-time freshmen entering Warren County Community College, as well as full-time and part-time transfer students who have not received transfer credit for college-level composition and/or mathematics, must take the placement test. Students will be tested only **after** they have been admitted to the college.

Students may be exempt from testing if they hold a bachelor's degree, earned SAT scores of 540 or higher in verbal and or 530 or higher in math (*5 years old or less for verbal and 3 years old or less for math*), or hold transfer credits in English and/or mathematics.

## **When and where the test is given:**

The Placement Test is administered throughout the academic year at Warren County Community College. Appointments are recommended, as walk-in availability varies. During open registration periods, testing hours are extended. For information on days and times, check the college web site. If you require more information, contact the Instructional Support Center by phone at 908-835-2354.

***TESTING IS FREE OF CHARGE.***

## **Special arrangements for students with disabilities:**

If you have a learning and/or physical disability that would prevent you from taking the test under standard conditions, separate testing is available in conjunction with any other special accommodations. No fee is charged for these arrangements. For details, please contact Student Services at **908-835-2300**.

## **Testing regulations:**

You may not use dictionaries, calculators, or aids of any kind during the exam. Anyone who gives or receives help during the test, or uses any type of aids, will not be permitted to continue the test. The college will invalidate any test score if there is a reason to question its legitimacy.

## **Test scores:**

You will receive your test scores immediately after testing.

## **WHAT YOU NEED ON TEST DAY**

- **A photo ID or two forms of non photo ID**
- **Student Identification Number (ex. 12345)**

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE PLACEMENT TEST

### Q. Why am I being asked to take this test?

A. The results of this test will place you in courses for which you are best prepared. **Therefore, this test must be taken seriously.**

### Q. Is this an admissions test?

A. No. The test has nothing to do with your being admitted to college. In fact, you will not take the test until **after** you have been admitted.

### Q. I have not yet been admitted. Can I still take the test?

A. **NO.** You will have to wait until you have been admitted to college.

### Q. I have taken courses at another college. Do I need to take this test?

A. You will be expected to take the test unless you have received transfer credits for college-level composition and mathematics.

### Q. I have taken other standardized tests for credit or placement. Do I need to take this test too?

A. Yes, unless you have taken the SATs and received a Verbal score of 540 or higher (5 years ago or less), and a Math score of 530 or higher (3 years ago or less).

### Q. I am not sure whether I am required to take the test. What should I do?

A. Student Services will be able to answer your questions (**908-835-2300**).

### Q. Why are you testing English?

A. Reading and writing skills are essential for success in college. You must read and write well enough to understand your college textbooks and to prepare research papers and answer essay questions on tests.

### Q. Why are you testing mathematics?

A. Certain quantitative skills and mathematical concepts are necessary for success in many phases of college-level work. These are the skills and concepts the test measures.

### Q. May I take the test at another college and have my scores transferred?

A. You are expected to take the test at the institution you plan to attend. If you have already tested at a different college, contact that college's Test Administrator to determine if the scores are transferrable.

### Q. How do I prepare for the test?

A. While the goal of the test is to assess your skills accumulated over time in reading, writing and mathematics, a review of reading and composition strategies and mathematics concepts would help refresh those skills, particularly if you have not used them recently. The testing center offers free review sessions.

### Q. Suppose I do not do well on the test?

A. The test will provide a list of the courses that you have placed into. An advisor will assist you in choosing the courses that you need to take.

### Q. What if I test into non-credit courses?

A. They are courses that will help you raise the level of your skills so that you can increase your chances for success in college. These courses do not earn credit toward graduation. They are prerequisites for taking college-level courses.

### Q. I have completed high school. Shouldn't I be ready for college-level work?

A. Not necessarily. Readiness depends on your expertise in essay writing, critical reading and basic mathematics and algebra. You may require pre-college level courses.

## **GENERAL TEST INFORMATION**

### **Computer Delivered Testing**

You will take the tests using a computer. The test is not timed. You will use either the keyboard or the mouse to enter your answers and supply other information. A proctor will always be present should you have any questions or problems. The proctor has the ability to resolve most difficulties that may occur.

### **Adaptive Testing**

The testing format presents one question at a time. Each page presents the question and several possible answer choices. The page may also include additional information that is needed to answer the question, such as a reading passage, picture or table information. This means that the computer automatically determines which questions are presented to you based on your responses to prior questions. This technique selects just the right questions to ask without being too easy or too difficult. 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. However, once you proceed to the next question, you cannot return to the previous one. Therefore, please take as much time as you need to answer each question; the test is not timed.

### **Guessing**

If you do not know the answer to a question, try to eliminate one or more of the choices. Then pick from the remaining choices.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE TEST**

### **Arithmetic test**

This test measures your ability to perform basic arithmetic operations and to solve problems that involve fundamental arithmetic concepts. There are seventeen questions on the Arithmetic tests, divided into three types.

- Operations with whole numbers and fractions: topics included in this category are addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, recognizing equivalent fractions and mixed numbers, and estimating.
- Operations with decimals and percents: topics include addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with decimals. Percent problems, recognition of decimals, fraction and percent equivalencies, and problems involving estimation are also given.

- Applications and problem solving: topics include rate, percent, and measurement problems, simple geometry problems, and distribution of a quantity into its fractional parts.
- Questions from all three categories are always presented, although the number of questions from each category varies with a tester's skill level.

### **Elementary Algebra Test**

This test measures your ability to perform basic algebraic operations and to solve problems that involve elementary algebraic concepts.

A total of twelve questions are administered in this test.

The first type involves operations with integers and rational numbers, and includes computation with integers and negative rationals, the use of absolute values, and ordering.

A second type involves operations with algebraic expressions using evaluation of simple formulas and expressions, and adding and subtracting monomials and polynomials. Questions involve multiplying and dividing monomials and polynomials, the evaluation of positive rational roots and exponents, simplifying algebraic fractions, and factoring.

The third type of question involves the solution of equations, inequalities, word problems, solving linear equations and inequalities, the solution of quadratic equations by factoring, solving verbal problems presented in an algebraic context, including geometric reasoning and graphing, and the translation of written phrases into algebraic expressions.

### **Reading Comprehension Test**

This test measures your ability to understand what you read.

There are twenty questions of two primary types on the Reading Comprehension test.

- The first type consists of a reading passage followed by a question based on the text. Both short and long passages are provided. The reading passages can also be 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.
- The second type of question, sentence relationships, presents two sentences followed by a question about the relationship between these two sentences. The question may ask, for example, if the statement in the second sentence supports that in the first, if it contradicts it, or if it repeats the same information.

## **Essay Test (Writeplacer)**

This test measures your ability to write effectively, which is critical to academic success.

Your writing sample will be scored on the basis of how effectively it communicates a whole message to the readers for the stated purpose. Your score will be based on your ability to express, organize, and support your opinions and ideas, not the position you take on the essay topic. The following five characteristics of writing will be considered:

**Focus**—The clarity with which you maintain your main idea or point of view

**Organization**—The clarity with which you structure your response and present a logical sequence of ideas

**Development and Support**—The extent to which you elaborate on your ideas and the extent to which you present supporting details

**Sentence Structure**—The effectiveness of your sentence structure

**Mechanical Conventions**—The extent to which your writing is free of errors in usage and mechanics

## **ACCUPLACER ESL**

The ACCUPLACER ESL assesses your English skills if you have learned English as an additional language to your native or first language. The ACCUPLACER ESL is divided into sections. You will take three of these sections.

### **ACCUPLACER ESL Reading Skills**

The Reading Skills test evaluates comprehension of short passages. There are 20 questions in this test. The content of passage is varied and deals with a variety of subjects including the arts, human relationships, physical science, history, social sciences, and practical situations.

- Half of the Reading Skills test contains straightforward comprehension items (paraphrasing, locating information, vocabulary on a phrase level, and pronoun reference).
- The other half assesses inference skills (main idea, fact vs. opinion, cause/effect logic, identifying irrelevant information, author's point of view, and applying the author's logic to another situation)

### **ACCUPLACER ESL Language Use**

The Language Use test measures grammar and usage. There are 20 questions to this test. It contains questions in two formats: completing a sentence by filling in a blank with the word or phrase from the choices given, and choosing a sentence that best combines two given discrete sentences.

- Subject-verb agreement
- Verb tenses
- Irregular verbs
- Noun forms and pronouns
- Modifiers and comparatives
- Prepositions, connectives, and parallelism
- Sentence fragments or run-on sentences

### **ACCUPLACER ESL Sentence Meaning**

Sentence Meaning assesses the understanding of word meanings in one or two-sentence contexts. There are 20 questions to this test. The sentences draw from the content areas of natural science, arts/humanities, human relationships, history, social sciences, and practical situations.

- Subject-verb agreement
- Verb tenses
- Irregular verbs
- Noun forms and pronouns
- Modifiers and comparatives
- Prepositions of direction and place
- Comparatives, connectives, and commands

### **Accessing Accuplacer Practice Tests:**

- Go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for sample questions and additional information. If you do not have a computer, you may use one in our college library.

### **English and Math Review Sessions:**

If you wish to attend a review session, you must sign up.

1. Find a review session that fits your schedule. The dates and times are on the college web site: [www.warren.edu](http://www.warren.edu). Click on *Prospective Students* and then *Placement Testing*. Near the bottom of the page is the link ([here](#)) to review session information. This information is also in the booklet that is mailed to each Warren County household. (If you do not have access to a computer, please call the Instructional Support Center at 908-835-2354.)
2. Call the Instructional Support Center at 908-835-2354 to register for a session.