

Distance Education Placement Testing Information

There are two placement exam options accepted at Bismarck State College, the ACCUPLACER exam and the COMPASS exam. These exams assess your skills in math and English for program and course placement purposes.

COMPASS is a placement exam that may only be taken at a COMPASS testing center. Many colleges and universities across the country offer the COMPASS exam. You will want to contact a college or university near you to see if you can register for and take the exam at their institution. You may also call the national COMPASS Testing Company at 1-800-645-1992 to receive assistance in finding a COMPASS testing center near you.

ACCUPLACER is an online placement exam that is administered at many colleges and universities across the country. Contact a local college or university directly or visit their website to see if they offer the ACCUPLACER Exam.

If these placement exams are not available at a college or university near you, the ACCUPLACER exam may also be taken, upon approval, in a public setting such as a local high school, library, private testing company, or with a college counselor or a supervisor at your work. If you choose to take the ACCUPLACER Exam using a proctor, please have your proctor complete the ACCUPLACER Proctor Agreement Form found below and fax it to the Admissions Office at (701) 224-5643.

What is COMPASS?

COMPASS is a computerized adaptive placement testing system that measures skills in math, reading and English. Because the exam is adaptive, there is no fixed set of testing questions. Each test is made up of a unique collection of items pulled from a database pool. Although the exam is not timed, students typically take 1 hr - 2.5 hours to complete the full test battery. When all sections have been completed, an individual score report will be created immediately. The student will be able to view their scores and print a copy of their score report. While the COMPASS placement exam is computerized, computer skills are not necessary. COMPASS is user friendly and is designed for individuals with little or no computer experience.

Which specific COMPASS test should I take?

To meet score requirements for an online energy program or to take a math course, the COMPASS Math Placement Exam must be taken. In order to take Engl 110, needed for all two year degrees, the COMPASS Writing Skills Placement Exam is required. Several of our **on-campus** technical programs also have a reading requirement which would require a student to take the Reading portion of COMPASS as well.

Are there any testing regulations?

The COMPASS exam must be taken at a COMPASS Testing Center. Calculators are allowed on the Math COMPASS exam, but the use of notes, books, dictionaries, or other resource materials are not allowed. Scratch paper may be used, but must be provided by the proctor and destroyed upon completion. Cell phones are prohibited during testing. Students are allowed one retest if they are not satisfied with their scores.

Can I study for the COMPASS Exam?

Sample COMPASS questions may be found at:
bismarckstate.edu/student/assess/SampleTests.asp

What is ACCUPLACER?

ACCUPLACER is a computer adaptive placement exam. Its purpose is to provide students with useful information about their academic skills. It is not pass/fail; instead scores will be used to help place students in the level where they will find the most success. Students will have their scores screened for proper placement in English, math, and reading and for admittance into limited enrollment Technical Programs.

How does ACCUPLACER work?

ACCUPLACER is set up in a multiple choice format and is untimed. Each section has a set amount of questions. When all sections have been completed, an individual score report will be created immediately. The student will be able to view their scores and print a copy of their score report. Although untimed, the math, reading, and English sections of ACCUPLACER typically take an hour to an hour and a half to complete.

Which specific ACCUPLACER test should I take?

To meet score requirements for an online energy program or to take a math course, the ACCUPLACER Elementary Algebra Exam must be taken. In order to take Engl 110 (needed for all two year degrees,) the ACCUPLACER Sentence Skills Exam is required. Several of our **on-campus** technical programs also have a reading requirement which would require a student to take the Reading portion of ACCUPLACER as well.

Are there any testing regulations?

ACCUPLACER must be administered in an educational, business, or public setting. For no reason is it ever allowed to be given in a student's home. ACCUPLACER must be administered and supervised by a proctor. Proctors will complete the Proctor Agreement Form found below prior to receiving passwords and testing information. The Proctor Agreement Form is not required if taking ACCUPLACER at a college or university testing center.

The use of calculators, notes, books, dictionaries, or other resource materials are not allowed. Scratch paper may be used, but must be provided by the proctor and destroyed upon completion. Cell phones are prohibited during testing. The student is allowed one retest if they are not satisfied with their scores.

Can I study for ACCUPLACER?

Sample ACCUPLACER questions can be found online at:

www.collegeboard.com/prod_downloads/student/testing/accuplacer/accuplacer-sample.pdf

PROCTOR AGREEMENT FORM FOR ACCUPLACER ASSESSMENT

A proctor is an individual in the professional community such as testing personnel from a college, university, or private testing company, a high school or college counselor, a librarian, your supervisor, or someone from your human resources department. The proctor **cannot** be a personal friend, co-worker or relative. Exams must be administered at a business or public site. Exams may not be taken at the examinee or proctor's home.

I agree to administer the ACCUPLACER Computerized Placement Exam to the following student:

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

I agree to verify identification of the student by use of a government issued ID (Driver's License, Passport, or Military ID.)

I agree to maintain security and confidentiality of the ACCUPLACER Exam and of the student's scoring and personal information.

I agree to maintain a quiet and secure testing environment.

I agree to be present throughout the entire exam and ensure the student does not have access to any additional resources, besides scratch paper, while completing the exam.

I agree that any proctoring fees must be charged directly to the examinee and not Bismarck State College.

Name/Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone #: _____ Fax #: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please complete form and fax to: (701) 224-5643. If you have questions, please call (701) 224-5429.