

# ACCUPLACER Placement Guide

The **ACCUPLACER** is a computerized, self-paced, and untimed assessment used to determine course placement levels. There are three sections: sentence skills, mathematics, and reading comprehension. You cannot pass or fail this computer assessment. More information about the **ACCUPLACER** (including test preparation materials, exemptions, and test availability) can be found on the Assessment Center website. Go to [www.montgomerycollege.edu/assessment](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/assessment) and click on the "Placement Testing" tab.

Below are a range of scores and possible types of courses (credit vs. non-credit) for which a student may place in each section. Students will receive specific course placements from a counselor after completing a mandatory Academic Orientation.

**Please note that this guide is for reference purposes only and should not be used for advising purposes. Students with questions about their placements should consult with a counselor or the specific department for interpretation.**

## Reading Comprehension

| Score   | Course Placement  |
|---------|---|
| 0 – 52  | Workforce Development & Continuing Education ( <i>no-credit</i> ) |
| 53 – 78 | Developmental Reading ( <i>no-credit</i> )                        |
| 79 +    | College Level Reading ( <i>credit</i> )                           |

## Sentence Skills (*English*)

| Score  | Course Placement                           |
|--------|--|
| 0 – 89 | Developmental English ( <i>no-credit</i> ) |
| 90 +   | College-Level English ( <i>credit</i> )    |

## Mathematics

Students who perform well on the Algebra portion may also see questions from the College Math portion.

| Algebra Score      | Course Placement                        |
|--------------------|---|
| 0 – 120            | Developmental Math ( <i>no-credit</i> ) |
| College Math Score | Course Placement                        |
| 0 – 44             | Developmental Math ( <i>no-credit</i> ) |
| 45 – 120           | College Level Math ( <i>credit</i> )    |

## Criteria for exemption from placement testing

You may be exempt from part of or the entire placement testing if you meet certain criteria that include:

- (1) a minimum SAT score of 550 in Critical Reading and/or Mathematics
- (2) a minimum ACT score of 24 in English and/or Mathematics);
- (3) completion of a college-level English course from an accredited U.S. college or university;
- (4) completion of a degree from an accredited U.S. college or university; or
- (5) credit for specific Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or CLEP.
- (6) a minimum score of 6.5 of the IELTS
- (7) a minimum TOEFL score of 575 on the paper/pencil version or a minimum score of 90 on the internet based version

# Assessment and Course Placement for New Students at Montgomery College

Almost all of the courses taught at Montgomery College require students to have a certain knowledge base in English, reading and sometimes math. These requirements are called assessment levels. A variety of methods are used to determine course placement, including SAT, ACT, TOEFL and AP scores.

If scores from the SAT, ACT or TOEFL scores are not available or high enough to exempt you from taking a placement test, the College will require you to complete the **ACCUPLACER** and/or **ESL ACCUPLACER** test to determine your eligibility for specific courses.

## Which test should I take?

If your first language is American English or you have attended a U.S. school for 10 or more years (elementary, middle, high school), you will take the **ACCUPLACER** placement test. Otherwise, you will take the **ESL ACCUPLACER** placement test designed for students who speak American English as a second (or subsequent) language.

More information about the **ACCUPLACER** and **ESL ACCUPLACER** can be found on the Montgomery College Assessment Center website at: [www.montgomerycollege.edu/assessment](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/assessment) and click on the "Placement Testing" tab.

## Test Taking Tips:

- Familiarize yourself with the test, which is computerized, self-paced, and untimed.
- Review the types of questions and material that will be covered by using online and other preparation resources, including those available under the Test Preparation tab on the Assessment Center website.
- Get enough sleep and eat a healthy meal or snack.
- Allow yourself enough time to take the test so you won't feel rushed
  - **ACCUPLACER** - approximately 1 ½-2 hours
- Remember to take a deep breath, relax and read directions carefully.

## How do I obtain my test results and/or determine course placements?

Once you've determined if you are exempt from testing or completed the **ACCUPLACER** you will need to complete an Academic Orientation.

## By participating in an academic orientation, you will:

- Learn how to navigate the College Catalog in order to understand the steps you need to reach your goal
- Identify a courses for your first semester
- Understand your placement results
- You will also learn about academic resources and support services.

## How do I complete an Academic Orientation?

For upcoming session dates and registration information, contact the Counseling Department on the campus for which you will take courses:

Germantown Campus, Counseling Department: (240) 567-7734

Rockville Campus, Counseling Department: (240) 567-5063

Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, Counseling Department: (240) 567-1480