

ACCUPLACER TESTING

1. What is ACCUPLACER?

ACCUPLACER is a testing system that measures skills in **reading, writing and math**. **ACCUPLACER cannot be used to assess for social or science admission requirements.**

Many programs at SIAST have adopted ACCUPLACER as part of their Special Admission process.

2. What type of a testing system is ACCUPLACER?

ACCUPLACER is a computerized test with several test sections. The computer software uses the information that you supply through the personal information questions at the beginning of the test to determine which question should be your first question. If your response to the first question is correct, the software will select a more difficult question for you. If your response is incorrect, the software will select a less difficult question for you. When you have answered a series of 17 to 20 questions, the software determines your score.

3. Is there a charge for taking ACCUPLACER?

It is **free** for SIAST applicants and students. But people who are not SIAST applicants or students can also take ACCUPLACER for a fee.

4. Do any SIAST programs require Grade 12 or specific subjects even though ACCUPLACER can be used for reading, writing and math?

Yes. Dental Assisting and Psychiatric Nursing use ACCUPLACER as part of Special Admission but applicants must also have a Saskatchewan Grade 12, or a GED 12, or the equivalent.

As well, Library and Information Technology applicants must have English Language Arts A30 and English Language Arts B30.

5. What if I apply to more than one program at the same time?

ACCUPLACER only needs to be written once in this case. Your results will be considered for each application you submit. Keep in mind that different programs require different tests and scores.

6. Can I prepare for the test?

Yes, there are several sites that can help you prepare for ACCUPLACER. Please note that, although we do our best to maintain a current list of available sites, some sites do become inactive before we have an opportunity to update the list. You may also want to search for additional sites with practice questions.

<http://www.AAmath.com>

This site helps with calculation and Algebra skills.

http://www.testprepreview.com/accuplacer_practice.htm

This site has several useful practice tests.

http://www.huntington.edu/dept_interior.aspx?id=6185&terms=Accuplacer

This site provides practice questions for the Arithmetic test and the Elementary Algebra test.

http://www.wtamu.edu/academic/anns/mps/math/mathlab/thea/thea_test.htm

This site is great for preparing to take the Elementary Algebra test.

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

This site provides explanations and sample questions from ACCUPLACER in Arithmetic, Elementary Algebra, Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills, and WritePlacer.

<http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/departments/AssessCtr/studyguide.htm>

This site has sample questions for every ACCUPLACER test, that cover a few areas of each section. They are designed to give you a general idea of the types of questions you will find on the ACCUPLACER test.

<http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/math/placement/placetest.html>

This site provides practice questions in Pre-algebra, Algebra, and College Level Math.

<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/accuplacer-writeplacer-sample-essays.pdf>

This site offers a guide to WritePlacer, with sample essays.

You are also welcome to contact Learning Services at any SIAST campus:

SIAST Kelsey Campus (Saskatoon)
Learning Services, Room 121
Phone: (306) 659-4048
Email: LACkelsey@siast.sk.ca

SIAST Palliser Campus (Moose Jaw)
Learning Services, Room 2.113
Phone: (306) 691-8422
Email: LACpalliser@siast.sk.ca

SIAST Wascana Campus (Regina)
Learning Services, Room 207.12 (Library)
Phone: (306) 775-7729
Email: LACwascana@siast.sk.ca

SIAST Woodland Campus (Prince Albert)
Learning Services, back of the Library (Technical Centre)
Phone: (306) 765-1520 or 765-1538
Email: LACwoodland@siast.sk.ca

- 7. Does everyone answer the same test questions?**
No, it is unlikely that any two people will answer exactly the same questions. However, two or more people might have the same results.
- 8. Are the tests timed?**
Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills, Arithmetic, Elementary Algebra, and College Level Math tests are not timed. These tests are multiple-choice.

WritePlacer (an online essay test) is timed. Test-takers have one (1) hour for pre-writing and one (1) hour for writing the essay online.
- 9. How long do the tests usually take?**
The multiple-choice tests usually take about 30 to 45 minutes per test. WritePlacer may take about two (2) hours to complete.
- 10. Can I review all my answers after I complete a test?**
No, the technology is not in place to allow test-takers to review all the answers when completed. However, the testing software will ask you to confirm your answer before going on to the next question.
- 11. When do I get my results?**
Your results will appear automatically at the end of the testing session.
- 12. How are my results shown?**
The results for each test are shown as a standardized score out of 120. The score is **not** a percentage. WritePlacer scores are shown by a number between 1 and 8.
- 13. Will someone review my test results with me?**
If you say that you would like your test results reviewed with you, the test centre will refer you to a Learning Services instructor who will do that with you.
- 14. What is a cut score?**
A cut score is the minimum score that you would need to get on each ACCUPLACER test required for admission to a program. Different programs have different cut scores based on the program curriculum.
- 15. How do I know what the required cut scores are for a program?**
To see the cut scores for any program, go to the program web page at goSIAST.com. Under Admission Requirements, you will find a green ACCUPLACER information icon. Place your cursor over the icon.
- 16. What happens to my application if I achieve the cut scores for the program that I want to take?**
Your ACCUPLACER results will automatically be sent to Registration Services. If you meet the required cut scores for the program you applied to, and if all other admission requirements have been met, you will receive a letter indicating that you are accepted to the program, and would be placed on the waitlist if the program is full at that time.
- 17. How long are my cut scores valid?**
ACCUPLACER scores are valid for **two years**. However, if you are on a waitlist for a program, your cut scores are valid for amount of time that you are on the waitlist.

18. What happens if I do not achieve the required cut scores for the program?

If **any** of your scores are more than 25 points below the required scores for the program, you will receive a letter indicating that your application is not accepted. However, you can review with the Learning Services instructor the content and skills needed to achieve a particular score.

You can also re-apply for admission and rewrite the ACCUPLACER **4 months after your previous test date**.

If in the meantime you meet **regular** admission requirements, you can re-apply for admission **at any time**.

If **all scores** are within 25 points of the required ACCUPLACER cut score or within 1 point of the required WritePlacer cut score for the program, you are allowed one rewrite of the specific test(s).

You must make arrangements to rewrite the ACCUPLACER tests that you were not successful in, and must rewrite within **30** days of your original test(s). If you do not achieve the cut score(s) on the rewrite, you will receive a letter indicating that your application is not accepted, and must wait **4 months after the rewrite test date** to re-apply.

If you rewrite a test for admission to **another program**, it is still considered a second attempt. If you do not achieve the required cut score on the rewrite, you will receive a letter indicating that your application is not accepted, and must wait **4 months after the rewrite test date** to re-apply.

19. What happens if I don't follow the test centre directions?

You will be asked to leave the test centre immediately and be referred to the campus Assistant Registrar. The Assistant Registrar will review the situation and make recommendations to the Registrar concerning the status of your application.

20. Is the Special Admission process different if I apply under SIAST's Equity Policy?

No, all applicants must meet the same admission requirements.

If you would like more information about SIAST's Equity Policy, contact Career and Counselling Services at any SIAST campus:

SIAST Kelsey Campus
Career and Counselling Services
Phone: (306) 659-4050
E-mail: kelseycounselling@siast.sk.ca

SIAST Palliser Campus
Career and Counselling Services
Phone: (306) 691-8311
E-mail: counseling@siast.sk.ca

SIAST Wascana Campus
Career and Counselling Services
Phone: (306) 775-7436
E-mail: wascanacounselling@siast.sk.ca

SIAST Woodland Campus
Career and Counselling Services
Phone: (306) 765-1611
E-mail: bain@siast.sk.ca

21. How do I make arrangements for ACCUPLACER testing?

You must write the test within **30** days of the date on the letter that was sent to you referring you for ACCUPLACER testing. If it is not possible for you to write the test within 30 days, you must contact Registration Services.

To take ACCUPLACER at a SIAST campus, contact the SIAST campus that is closest to you:

SIAST Kelsey Campus (Saskatoon)
Test Centre
Phone: (306) 659-4045
E-mail: keltc@siast.sk.ca

SIAST Palliser Campus (Moose Jaw)
Test Centre
Phone: (306) 691-8302
E-mail: pal_testcentre@siast.sk.ca

SIAST Wascana Campus (Regina)
Test Centre
Phone (306) 775-7523
E-mail: wascanadc@siast.sk.ca

SIAST Woodland Campus (Prince Albert)
Test Centre
Phone: (306) 765-1542
E-mail: woodlandtc@siast.sk.ca

To take ACCUPLACER at a Regional College or another non-SIAST location, contact the Director's office, Library and Testing Services, at (306) 775-7709.

22. Do I need to bring anything with me to my testing appointment?

Yes, you must bring the letter of referral you received and photo identification.