

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

ACCUPLACER

1. What is ACCUPLACER?

ACCUPLACER is a testing system developed by the College Board (www.collegeboard.com) that measures proficiency in **reading, writing, and math** skills. **ACCUPLACER cannot be used to assess for social or science admission requirements.**

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

2. Do any SIAST programs require Grade 12 (or equivalent), even though ACCUPLACER may be used for academic assessment?

Yes. The following three SIAST programs that employ ACCUPLACER as part of Special Admissions require the applicant to have a Saskatchewan Grade 12 standing, a GED 12, or the equivalent from another jurisdiction:

Dental Assisting
Practical Nursing
Psychiatric Nursing

3. What type of test is ACCUPLACER?

ACCUPLACER is a computerized adaptive test; therefore, students use computer technology to write ACCUPLACER tests. The computer software uses the information that you supply to the system through the personal information questions at the beginning of the test to determine which question from a pool of first questions should be your start 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. After a series of 17 to 20 questions, the software determines your level.

4. Can I prepare for the test?

Yes, you can visit the following sites and view sample questions that are similar to the questions on the ACCUPLACER test:

<http://www.mathmax.com>

This website provides a review for Pre-algebra, Elementary Algebra, and College Level Math question types.

<http://www.AAAmath.com>

This website facilitates calculation and Algebra skill development.

<http://www.math.com>

This website provides a review of fractions, decimals, percents, ratios, and proportions.

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

This web site has several practice tests that would be useful for assessing an applicant's current skills.

<http://www.huntington.edu/math/Accuplacer/index.htm>

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

<http://wcb.neit.edu/asc/prctctst.htm>

This web site has practice questions for the Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills, Arithmetic, and Elementary Algebra tests.

<http://www.kvcc.me.edu/Website/Frames/WebSiteData/ProspectiveStudents/HowToEnroll/hteaccuplacer.htm>

This website has some general tips for writing ACCUPLACER as well as some practice questions for the Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills, Arithmetic, and Elementary Algebra tests.

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

This website provides excellent preparation for the Elementary Algebra test.

<http://www.mccfl.edu/pages/1484.asp>

This web site provides excellent practice questions for Arithmetic, Elementary Algebra, Reading Comprehension, and Sentence Skills. The user selects the answer from four choices, then submits the responses.

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

This website 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>

Sample questions are shown for each of the ACCUPLACER tests: Arithmetic, Elementary Algebra, College Level Math, Reading Comprehension, and Sentence Skills. The sample questions cover only a few of the areas assessed through each test. 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 website 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.

Alternatively, you may contact Learning Services at a SIAST campus (see page 3).

5. Does everyone answer the same questions?

No, it is unlikely that any two people will answer exactly the same questions, although two or more individuals may have the same end result.

6. Is this test timed?

The Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills, Arithmetic, Elementary Algebra, and College Level Math tests are not timed. These tests are presented in a multiple-choice format. If you are required to take a WritePlacer (online essay test), you will have one (1) hour for pre-writing and one (1) hour for writing your essay online.

7. How long will the test normally take?

The multiple-choice tests normally take 30 to 45 minutes per test. WritePlacer, the online essay, may take two (2) hours to complete.

8. Can I review all my answers after I have completed a test?

No, the technology is not in place to allow students to review their whole tests. However, the testing software does ask you to verify your response before proceeding to the next question.

9. When do I get my results?

Your results will appear automatically at the end of the testing session.

10. How are my results presented?

The results for each test are presented as a standardized score out of 120, as a percentile rank and a standard error of measure (SEM) for each test written. The percentile rank is **not** a percentage. The percentile rank compares your score to the score of more than 30,000 test writers who composed the norming sample. WritePlacer scores are presented as a number from 1 to 8; however, individual writing elements will be scored in the feedback section.

11. Will someone review my test results with me?

If you indicate that you would like your test results reviewed with you, a Learning Services instructor will do so upon referral from the test centre.

12. What is a cut score?

A cut score is a score on a particular ACCUPLACER test that determines satisfactory performance. Different programs have different cut scores and different test requirements based on the curricula of the program.

13. What happens to my application if I achieve the cut score(s) for the program that I want to enter?

Your ACCUPLACER results will automatically be sent to Registration Services. If you meet required cut scores for the program you have applied to, and if all other admission requirements have been met, you will be placed in the application pool for the program intake to which you applied.

14. What happens if I do not achieve the required cut score(s) for the program?

If you do not achieve the required cut score(s), your application will not be accepted. You will have the opportunity to review with the Learning Services instructor the content and skills required to achieve a particular score. You may re-apply for admission and rewrite the ACCUPLACER after a period of 4 months. If in the meantime you meet regular entrance requirements, you may apply for re-admission immediately.

If your scores are within 25 points of the ACCUPLACER cut scores or within 1 point of the WritePlacer cut score for the program, you will be allowed one rewrite. You must make arrangements to rewrite only the ACCUPLACER sections that you were not successful in. You must rewrite within 30 days of your original test(s). If you do not achieve the cut score(s) on the rewrite, your application will not be accepted. A test portion re-write for admission to another program is still considered a second attempt. If you do not achieve the established cut score on the test portion re-write, you must wait 4 months to re-apply.

15. What will happen if I fail to follow the proctoring directions?

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

16. Is the Special Admissions process different if I declare that I qualify for consideration under SIAST's Equity Policy?

All applicants must meet the same admission requirements.

If you would like more information about SIAST's Equity Policy, please contact a counselor at one of the SIAST campuses.

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

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

17. Who do I contact to make arrangements for ACCUPLACER testing?

To write 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: wscanatc@siast.sk.ca

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

To write at a Regional College or another non-SIAST location, please contact the Test Centre at SIAST Woodland Campus, at (306) 765-1542.