



Compass Placement Testing for Dual Enrollment

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a placement test and why do I need it to enroll in this DE course?

Dual Enrollment courses are college level courses. Germanna Community College uses placement tests to determine if you are ready for college level coursework. We want to ensure that you have the academic foundation to be successful. (Please let your high school counselor know if you have already taken the SAT or ACT, so that you can discuss whether these scores will qualify you for Dual Enrollment Courses.)

Compass English Placement Test-What should I expect?

There is a reading and writing section to this exam. The reading portion includes large passages with various corresponding questions. The writing portion will not ask you to write; however, it will ask you to edit passages.

Compass Math Placement Test-What should I expect?

This exam begins with pre-algebra and will get progressively more difficult. You will have access to the calculator on the computer. Tests are untimed.

How can students study & prepare for these tests?

There are some sample questions available online:

<http://www.act.org/compass/sample/index.html>

Also, review math on your own. Taking the time to prepare for this test will make a difference.

Additional Information - Placement test scores are valid for three (3) years. Each test is untimed; however check with your high school placement testing proctor about what time their testing begins and ends. If you need additional time, talk to the test proctor, or see your high school counselor.

Suggestion on the day of the test - Students must have applied and have their Germanna Community College ID number to take the test. Students who falsify this number will not be permitted to enroll in DE.

Make sure you are rested, dressed comfortably, are well fed, and have your glasses or contacts with you. It is your responsibility to make sure that you are prepared on the day that your school has scheduled Compass Testing.

What happens if I do not qualify for DE because I do not meet the needed score?

Please remember that these tests are to determine whether students are ready for college coursework. If a student does not meet the required placement test cut off score(s), he/she will not be eligible to take that DE course. If a student does not meet the required placement test cut off score(s), he/she should not get discouraged. This test can be used as a valuable tool for helping students. The test will identify areas that the student should focus on in preparation for college. Germanna and the high schools would like to reduce the number of students who enter college needing remediation. Students should be working hard on these areas while they are still in high school.

What can high school students do now to improve their readiness for college?

- Commit to working hard in high school and studying.
- Talk to your high school counselors and teachers about the academic areas that you find difficult.
- Take advantage of tutoring at your school, or seek out help by finding a tutor or friend who is strong in the area that you need help.
- Take advantage of online learning resources that are posted on your high school webpage.
- Continue to take math courses throughout high school. Don't have a math gap!
- Write in a journal.
- Read carefully for comprehension.