

## Compass Test Information

COMPASS is a computerized placement test that is used to evaluate students' current academic skills in order to place them into the appropriate course levels. COMPASS is not a test that students can "pass" or "fail." Instead, scores are used to identify students' strengths and weaknesses so that they are not placed into classes that are too easy or difficult. The test typically takes two hours to complete; however, there is not an established time limit.

This handout includes some resources that might assist you in preparing to take the placement test.

### Helpful Handouts

There are numerous handouts available for your use. The handouts below are available outside room 208 at both the Locust Grove Campus or the Fredericksburg Area Campus – Dickinson Building (FAC1). All are also available for download at Tutoring Services' Germanna webpage under Helpful Handouts.

[http://www.germannacollege.edu/tutor/helpful\\_handouts.asp?menuchoice=Helpful%20Handouts](http://www.germannacollege.edu/tutor/helpful_handouts.asp?menuchoice=Helpful%20Handouts)

### MATH

- Math Placement Review
- Order of Operations
- Introduction to Word Problems
- Math 03-04 Word Problems
- Decimals, Fractions, & Percents
- Introduction to Fractions
- Working with Complex Numbers
- Factoring Methods
- Linear Equations
- Quadratic Formula
- Polynomial Fractions
- Geometric Formulas
- Exponents and Radicals

### ENGLISH

- Guide to English Grammar
- Run-ons and Comma splices
- Comma Rules
- The Semicolon
- Direct and Indirect Objects
- Verb Tenses
- Possessives
- Prepositions
- Adjectives/Adverbs
- Spelling – Nouns Plural

### COMPASS SAMPLE TEST QUESTIONS

There are three separate packets that you may pick up from the Locust Grove Campus counseling office or download as stated above: Mathematics (numerical skills/pre-algebra, algebra), Reading, and Writing Skills.

### HELPFUL WEBSITES

#### MATH

**That Quiz:** Math practice quizzes

<http://www.thatquiz.org/>

This site provides many practice problems for a variety of math topics: from arithmetic to geometry to calculus. Quiz results only demonstrate which problems were answered correctly or incorrectly, not the solutions. However, this is a great website to find practice problems to supplement textbook homework questions.

**PurpleMath:** Tutorials on many math topics

<http://www.purplemath.com/modules/index.htm>

This site gives detailed explanations on how to solve many different kinds of math problems. Sections include: Preliminary topics; Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Algebra; and Solving Word Problems.

**Math.com:** Tutorials, practice problems, calculators, and games

<http://math.com/homeworkhelp/PreAlgebra.html>

Math.com features tutorials on many different math topics, including: pre-algebra, math basics, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, statistics, and calculus. Although practice problems allow quiz results to be shown, correct answers are not given. There are also many online calculators available to use, as well as a variety of games that will strengthen your math skills.

**Multiplication.com:** Multiplication practice

<http://www.multiplication.com/basics/teach1.htm>

This site provides lessons on calculating basic multiplication practice problems.

**Intermediate Algebra Extras:** Tutorials and practice problems for algebra topics

<http://student.ccbcmd.edu/~stwigg3/>

This site provides notes on select algebra topics, practice quizzes, and calculator tips. The math topics covered include factoring, graphing quadratic equations, solving linear, rational, radical, and quadratic equations, working with integers, and word problems.

**Algebasics:** Algebra tutorials with audio

<http://www.algebasics.com/>

This site features oral tutorials on how to solve different types of algebra problems, and they are especially helpful for auditory learners. Topics include: algebra basics, equations, ratios and proportions, inequalities, absolute values, exponents, polynomials, factoring, rational expressions, linear equations, functions, and more. An added component features a “teacher” who works out each problem step-by-step while providing an explanation of the mathematical operations being performed.

**Algebra.help:** Lessons and practice problems

<http://www.algebrahelp.com/worksheets/>

This site provides lessons and practice problems with a step-by-step guide to the solutions.

**Quick-and-Dirty Guide to the TI-83:** Instructions for using the TI-83 calculator

<http://www4.ncsu.edu/unity/lockers/users/f/felder/public/kenny/papers/ti.html#WINDOW>

This site provides an easy-to-understand guide for using the TI-83 calculator that is provided to students taking the COMPASS test.

**How to use the TI-83/84 Calculator:** Learn how to operate the TI-83/84 calculator.

<http://www.germannacommunitycollege.edu/tutor/videos/TI-83.html>

This video workshop was created by tutoring services. It provides simple instructions on using the TI-83 calculator.

COMPASS TEST REVIEW

**Test Prep Review:** Practice questions for math, reading comprehension, spelling, and grammar

[http://www.testprepreview.com/compass\\_practice.htm](http://www.testprepreview.com/compass_practice.htm)

This site provides numerous practice questions related directly to topics on the COMPASS exam.

These topics include: algebra, basic operations, commas, estimation, exponents, fractions and square roots, geometry, graphs, grammar, measurement, percents and ratios, reading comprehension, reading for main ideas, and sentence corrections.

**CollegeBoard:** Critical reading, writing, and math skill preparation

[http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/prep\\_one/prep\\_one.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/prep_one/prep_one.html)

Although this site is specifically geared towards information covered on the SATs, the topics reviewed are similar to the subjects students will encounter on the COMPASS test.