CSN Mathematics Placement Information

The ACCUPLACER Mathematics Placement Test:

The ACCUPLACER Mathematics Placement Test is used by the CSN Mathematics Department as the primary instrument to determine your placement into a mathematics course.

- It is given ONLINE using secure computers located in any of the CSN Testing Centers.
- The test questions are multiple choice.
- It consists of three parts entitled "Arithmetic", "Elementary Algebra", and "College-Level Mathematics." In general, you are first given the "Elementary Algebra" portion. However, depending on your answers to the questions, you may also have to take the "Arithmetic" or the "College-Level" portions.

The ACCUPLACER Mathematics Placement Test is a computer adaptive test. In such a test, each question is selected for you by the computer program depending on your answer to earlier questions. Therefore, some students will work more math problems than others. In order for you to be placed into your desired math course, you MUST answer every question to the VERY BEST of your abilities. You cannot skip a question with the intention of working on it later because this means to the computer program that you did not know the question and because of this it might place you into a lower-level course!

The ACCUPLACER Mathematics Placement Test was developed by the College Board and is nationally-normed. This means that a representative group of students throughout the nation, called the norm group, was given the test prior to its availability to the public. The scores of the students who take the test after publication are then compared to those of the norm group.

The College Board is a not-for-profit membership association, which creates nationally-normed tests that are accepted by all education-related Government agencies including the ones that provide financial aid. Among its best-known tests are the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT, and the Advanced Placement Program (AP). The College Board employs individuals trained in a subject matter and in the art of writing tests, who are committed to the principles of excellence and equity.

Sample Placement Tests:

The CSN Mathematics Department has written extensive sample placement tests to give you the best possible chance to place into your desired math course. You can find them on the CSN Mathematics Department Web Site at http://www.csn.edu/math. The CSN Mathematics Department strongly urges you to carefully study these tests before taking the ACCUPLACER Mathematics Placement Test because a less than desirable testing outcome will have dire time and monetary consequences for you.

The developers of the Accuplacer Mathematics Placement Test (College Board) also provides sample placement tests. You can find them at http://www.collegeboard.com/prod_downloads/student/testing/accuplacer/accuplacer-sample.pdf
Who must take the ACCUPLACER Mathematics Placement Test?

The Accuplacer Math Placement Test MUST be taken by all students who HAVE NOT met prior CSN math prerequisites such as

- completion of a CSN math Course with a grade of C or better
- sufficiently high ACT or SAT scores *
- sufficiently high CLEP Exam score **
- sufficiently high AP or BC Calculus score
- transfer credits form another university or college completed with a grade of C or better **

Are there any Fees for taking the Accuplacer Mathematics Placement Test?

Application to the College of Southern Nevada is required before you can take the Accuplacer Mathematics Placement Test and there is no additional charge for the test.

Challenging the Outcome of the ACCUPLACER Mathematics Placement Test:

The outcome of the ACCUPLACER Mathematics Placement test is final and cannot be challenged. You may discuss your concerns with the Chair of the Mathematics Department.

How often can you take the Placement Test?

If you are not happy with the Accuplacer Mathematics Placement Test results, you can repeat the test after 4 months. NO EXCEPTIONS. Therefore, the CSN Mathematics Department strongly urges you to take these tests seriously and to practice the sample placement tests until you are comfortable with the mathematical concepts presented by them.

How long is the Mathematics Placement Test?

The Accuplacer Mathematics Placement Test is untimed. However, plan to be at the Testing Center for at least one (1) hour. Suggestion ... a longer stay and hard work will increase your chances of placing into your desired math course.

Scheduling the Test:

You do NOT need an appointment to take the ACCUPLACER Mathematics Placement Test. It is given on a walk-in basis at any CSN Testing Center.

What do you have to bring to the Placement Tests?

On the day you decide to take the ACCUPLACER Mathematics Placement Test bring photo identification and a pencil. The Testing Center will provide scratch paper for computations. You are NOT allowed to use your own calculators. There is a calculator built into the ACCUPLACER testing software that will be displayed for certain questions.

Placement Test Regulations:

- In order to take the Accuplacer Mathematics Placement Test, you must be an ADMITTED CSN student.
- The ACCUPLACER Mathematics Placement Test results are valid for two (2) years. You must take the test again if you wait longer than two years to enroll in a math course.
- Any student caught cheating on the Accuplacer Placement Test will be immediately reported to the appropriate administrator for academic dishonesty.
Placement Test Score Reporting:

Once you have completed an Accuplacer Mathematics Placement Test a score report is created. You will be given a copy of this report for informational purposes. The CSN Testing Center staff will also use this report to inform the CSN data base of your placement. Thereafter, you are restricted from enrolling in mathematics courses that are deemed inappropriate for you current level of mathematical knowledge.

Placement Tests and Students with Disabilities:

If you have a DOCUMENTED disability, please let the Testing Center staff know. They will contact the staff at the Disability Resource Center to find out what accommodations to make for you. Attention ... a "documented disability" means that the CSN Disability Resource Center has evaluated your disability and found that you are in need of special testing accommodations. Please be aware that your claiming to have a math disability is not enough to provide special services.

Frequently Asked Questions:

"Why do I have to take a Math Placement test"?

Your test results will help you and your counselor work together to choose courses in which you will have the best chance for success.

"If I place into a particular math course, does that mean the same as having passed its prerequisite course"?

NO. The Accuplacer Mathematics Placement Test is not designed to verify in-depth concept knowledge in a particular area of mathematics. Instead, it picks some important concepts in the general area of arithmetic, algebra, and college-level mathematics to determine the extent of the students' concept recall and their LIKELY success in a certain mathematics course.

"If the Accuplacer Mathematics Placement Test places me into a certain course, is this like a guarantee that I will pass this course"

No. The Accuplacer Mathematics Placement Test only determines the extent of the students' concept recall and their LIKELY success in a certain mathematics course. There are many other factors that influence your success in a course, such as your overall concept knowledge in the prerequisite course, your study habits, your work schedule, and your family and social life.

"Are word translators allowed on the Math Placement test"?

No. You must have enough English language knowledge to complete the placement test without a word translator.

"How long are the Accuplacer Test Scores good for"?

2 years. If you have not taken the mathematics courses recommended by Accuplacer within two (2) years, you must take the Accuplacer Mathematics Placement Test again.

"How long are the ACT/SAT Scores good for"?

2 years. If you have not taken the mathematics courses recommended by your ACT/SAT scores within two (2) years, you must take the Accuplacer Mathematics Placement Test.
"How long are the AP or BC Calculus Scores good for"?

2 years. If you have not taken a calculus course in a college setting within two (2) years, you must take the Accuplacer Mathematics Placement Test.

"I have taken my prerequisite course over 5 years ago. Can I still take the next course"?

Yes. Currently, we do not have a time limit on prerequisite courses. However, it is strongly recommended that you retake this prerequisite course again to greatly increase your chances of successfully completing the subsequent course.

There are several courses on my Placement Test Report that I could enroll in. Which one should I choose?

It is best to talk to a counselor to find out which of the math courses listed on your Placement Test Report you should take. The decision depends on the degree you are seeking.