Frequently Asked Questions

What is Level UP?

Level UP is a free 4 to 6 week summer program for incoming freshmen at City Colleges of Chicago (CCC). The program prepares students for college-level coursework in both Math and English and what it takes to be successful in college. The primary goal of Level UP is to have more first-year college students begin their fall semester at CCC with fewer pre-college level requirements, and therefore, a much better chance of college success.

What are the benefits to participating in Level UP?

Students can save up to $3000 in tuition and textbooks and eliminate up to 3 semesters of classes in 4-6 weeks. Not only can students eliminate what are traditionally semester long classes in a few weeks over the summer, they can also develop a support system with peers, faculty, and staff.

How much does Level UP cost?

Level UP is a free program. There are no tuition or textbook costs. Students are only responsible for providing their own transportation to campus each day.

Who is eligible for Level UP?

Level UP is designated for students who plan to enroll in CCC courses. Students that will be classified as a first-time credit student at the start of the fall semester are eligible to apply for Level UP. Students do not have to be recent high school graduates but need a high school diploma or GED to be admitted into the program.

How do students apply for Level UP?

Students should complete a CCC application AND Level UP application before the Level UP application deadline. CCC’s online application can be found at www.ccc.edu. The Level Up application can be found at www.ccc.edu/LevelUP.

After completing the necessary applications, students should arrange to take the COMPASS test. If the test has been taken within the last 12 months then student do not HAVE to re-take the test for Level UP purposes.

What are the start and end dates for the summer program?

Harold Washington College:
Session I: June 30th to July 25th
  Math: 9am -12pm, (Monday-Thursday)
  Math: 1pm-4pm, (Monday - Thursday)
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Session I: June 30th to July 25th
  - English 9am-4pm, (Monday & Wednesday)
  - English 9am-4pm, (Tuesday & Thursday)

*Orientation for new students on June 26th from 10-11am and 2-3pm.

Kennedy King College:
Session I: May 12 - May 28th
  - Math: 9am – 1pm, (Monday – Thursday)
  - English (Reading Writing): 2pm – 6pm, (Monday – Thursday)

Session II Math: June 6 – June 21
  - Math: 9am – 5pm, (Friday & Saturday)

Session II English (Reading Writing): June 9 – June 26
  - English (Reading Writing): 2pm – 6pm, (Monday – Thursday)

Session III June 23 – August 1
  - Math: 9am – 1pm, (Monday & Wednesday)
  - Math: 9am – 1pm, (Tuesday & Thursday)

Session IV Math July 28 – Aug 14
  - Math: 9am – 1pm, (Monday – Thursday)

Session IV English: July 7 – July 24
  - English (Reading Writing): 10am – 1pm, (Monday – Thursday)

Malcolm X College:
Session I: June 23rd to July 18th
  - Math: 9am to 12 pm, Monday-Thursday, English (Reading Writing): 9am to 12 pm, Monday-Thursday
  - Math: 1pm to 4pm, (Monday-Thursday)
  - English (Reading Writing): 1pm to 4pm, (Monday-Thursday)

Olive-Harvey College:
Session I: June 23rd to July 31st
  - Math: 9:00am to 12pm, (Monday & Wednesday)
  - English: 1pm to 4pm, (Monday & Wednesday)
  - Reading: 9:00am to 12pm, (Tuesday & Thursday)
  - Chemistry: 1pm to 4pm, (Tuesday & Thursday)

Wright College:
Session I: June 24th to July 31st
  - Math: 2pm to 5pm (Monday thru Thursday)
  - English (Reading Writing): 2pm to 5pm, (Monday thru Thursday)
Can I attend a Level UP class at a different City College from the one I want to enroll in for the fall?

Yes. Just inform your Level UP Coordinator of which City College you’d like to attend in the fall.

What are the rules for participating in Level UP?

There is an attendance policy that only allows students to miss 1 day of classes. The first absence is considered a warning and upon the 2nd absence, the student is dismissed from the program. Because this is a short program, every minute is very crucial to ensure that students are able to experience level gains. Students are also required to take a pre and post COMPASS placement test.

Students are also expected to comply with CCC’s Student Policy Manual. The manual can be found online at www.ccc.edu. Just search on “Student Policy Manual” on the main page.

Why do students have to take developmental or pre-college level courses?

If students do not meet the ACT or COMPASS requirements to begin college-level Math and English classes, we offer a series of developmental classes to help bring students up to speed. Level UP allows students to reduce the likelihood of needing those courses when starting in the fall semester.

These developmental courses do not count towards graduation requirements but are required for those students not placing directly into college level classes. For some of these classes students cannot use financial aid. This is why it is very important for students to take advantage of the opportunity that Level UP provides!

What is the COMPASS placement test?

COMPASS is an untimed, computerized test that helps CCC evaluate students' skills and place them into appropriate courses. COMPASS offers tests in reading, writing, math, and English as a Second Language (ESL).

What if I’ve already taken COMPASS?

You are not required to take the COMPASS test again, if you have taken it within the last 12 months. Those scores will just need to be provided by your high school or in some official manner.

Can I use my ACT scores instead of taking COMPASS?

Students who have graduated from high school can be placed using valid ACT scores (in addition to taking the COMPASS e-write exam). Verification of scores should be attained with either an official ACT transcript, or scores affixed to an official high school transcript. ACT test scores remain valid for two years. However, students with ACT scores who believe their academic skills have improved since they took the ACT tests are given the opportunity to take the COMPASS test.

What if my scores are high in one subject and low in the other?

Students will be placed into the Level UP classes according to their scores. Students have the option to take both Level UP Math and Level UP English if scores are low.

What if my COMPASS score goes down at the end of the program?

If your COMPASS score at the end of Level UP is lower than your COMPASS score when you came into Level UP, the higher of the two scores will be used to determine your placement.
Who should I contact if I have more questions?

There are a couple of different ways to get in contact with us.

Email: You can email us at level_up@ccc.edu

Phone: You can contact any of the people below for more information about the program

Harold Washington Coordinator: Rosie Banks, rbanks@ccc.edu, 312-553-3086
Kennedy-King Coordinator: Brandon Nichols, bnichols1@ccc.edu, 773-602-5072
Malcolm X Coordinator: Adamma May, amay17@ccc.edu, 312-850-7397
Olive-Harvey Coordinator: Sudipta Roy, sroy4@ccc.edu, (773)291-6495
Wright Coordinator: Richard Zelenka, RZelenka@ccc.edu, 773-481-8434
CCC District Liaison: Freda Richmond, frichmond1@ccc.edu, 312-553-2970