

PLACEMENT TESTS FAQ

What is placement testing?

- Assessment and placement tests are used to determine the enrollment level in the program/plan of choice.

How are tests administered?

- Tests are administered at the Testing Centers across the 7 City Colleges of Chicago. High school students have the option to take their placement exams at their high school during school hours.

What are the testing center hours?

- Testing Center hours can vary by college. However, generally each of our Testing Centers are open during operational business hours from 9:00am-5:00pm/6:00pm Monday through Thursday.
- On Fridays, Testing Centers are open from 9:00am-1:00pm.

Are the tests timed?

- Yes, students have up to 3.5 hours to complete the English placement exam. Students have up to 90 minutes for the ALEKS.

Can I use my placement results to enroll at any CCC campus?

- Yes, your placement scores can be utilized at any of our seven city colleges for enrollment.

How long are the placement test results valid?

- For the English Read to Write exam, the placement test result is valid for 2 academic years.
- For the Math placement exam, your placement result is valid for 12 months.

Do I have to take the Placement Test(s)?

- To register for classes, you must have completed Placement Test(s) or been granted a test waiver. To see if you are eligible for a test waiver, click “Take Placement” on the homepage in the student portal, then click “How to get a Waiver for Placement Testing”. Students who have a test waiver may enroll directly into college-level English and Math.

How do I take my Placement Test(s)?

- If you are an Early College student, your placement exams will more than likely be proctored at your high school and/or at a City Colleges of Chicago Testing Center.
- If you are a regular applicant (non early College) you have the option to take your English placement exam at one of the City Colleges of Chicago Testing

Center and/or at your high school. Math placement exams are not proctored at this time and are accessible via your student portal if you are a regular applicant.

When do I need to take the Placement Test(s)?

- You should take placement exams upon completing an admissions application. You are encouraged to take the Placement Tests as soon as possible so that you are eligible to register and enroll for the appropriate courses.

How can I prepare for the Placement Test(s)?

- You are highly encouraged to review Placement Test preparation materials, accessible in your student portal. Just click the document you would like to view under “Placement Resources” on the right side of the page.

I prefer to take the Placement Test(s) at a City Colleges of Chicago campus. Is that possible?

- Yes. It is required that you take the English Placement Test at one of the City Colleges of Chicago’s Testing Centers, unless you are a current high school student with an eligible proctor at the high school. You may also take the math Placement Test at a City Colleges of Chicago Testing Center if you so choose.

Do I need any materials to take the Placement Test(s)?

- To ensure that you can take the test comfortably and without interruption, you should keep these things handy: pens, pencils, paper, and your username and password for the student portal. Also bring your student ID number and a photo ID.

What will the placement tests cover?

- The English Placement exam is available through our College Success platform. College success is an adaptive learning and adaptive placement platform that assesses the knowledge and skills of incoming college students. Students will respond to brief background questions, read a short passage, answer some reading comprehension questions, and write a multi paragraph essay in response to the passage.
- The Math Placement is distributed via the ALEKS platform. ALEKS is a research-based, full automated, adaptive system that covers materials from Basic Math, algebra, and pre-calculus material.

What are the criteria for a placement test waiver?

- Incoming students who have earned a grade of “C” or better in college level English or Math courses from a regionally accredited institution are exempt from being tested, provided official transcripts are submitted verifying successful completion of courses.
- College credit may be granted for students completing Advanced Placement courses and earning scores of 3,4, or 5 on the College Board Advanced Placement Examinations. Applicants with those scores will be awarded transfer credit for the equivalent college credit course and may be exempt from placement testing.
- Students who have successfully completed the entire International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) and earned an IB Diploma will be awarded college-level credit if they receive a score of 4 or higher on their subject examinations

Additional Criteria

- Transfer students who submit an official transcript from a regionally accredited college or university showing successful completion of an equivalent developmental level course in English or math; or showing completion of college level math, English (particularly ENGLISH 101 Composition/Freshman Composition), with a grade of “C” or higher.
- Students who have already earned an Associates degree or higher.
- High school graduates who submit official and sufficiently high ACT or SAT test scores. ACT and SAT test scores are valid for a period of four (4) years. A writing test may still be required.
- GED or HiSET score as outlined in the [academic policy](#).
- Transitional Math or Transitional English grade as outlined in the [academic policy](#).

How will I receive my scores?

- ALEKS Math scores are immediately available upon completion of the assessment. The results can be accessed via student portal.
- The Read to Write English exam is graded manually and takes up to 3-5 business days to be graded and available for viewing in the student portal.

How will I know which English and Math course(s) to enroll in?

- The Read to Write English exam is graded manually and takes up to 3-5 business days to be graded and available for viewing in your student portal.
- The Math placement score is immediately available upon completion and is also available within the student portal.
- Your scores will be viewable in your student portal.

- Meet with an academic advisor to finalize and select your course schedule.

Will I be allowed to retest?

- Yes, you have up to 5 attempts for the ALEKS math placement exam.
- For Early College students, the exam can be taken once per academic semester.
- For regular applicants you can take the English placement exam once per academic year

What happens if I test into developmental courses?

- Testing into a developmental course is an entry point to eventually enrolling in college level coursework. Developmental courses build foundational skillsets needed to excel in college level curriculum.
- Students may receive Financial Aid for a maximum of 30 semester hours of Development Studies courses as long as the courses are required as a result of placement testing, the student is in an eligible program of study, and Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements continue to be met.

How do I receive special accommodations?

- Testing Accommodations for students with disabilities are given in a manner consistent with the applicable requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American Disabilities Act. This includes offering and administering the test in a time, place and manner that is accessible, including the provision of appropriate modifications and auxiliary aids and services.
- Accommodations at CCC are provided through the Disability Access Centers prior to test administration.
- Accommodations within the high school are provided from the high school administering the exams.

Do I have to pay for a placement exam?

- There are no costs associated with the ALEKS Math placement exam or the English Read to Write exam.