

STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND PLACEMENT INFORMATION

Student testing continues to be the responsibility of the Office of Student Assessment (OSA). Based on information provided by the relevant departments, students are automatically placed in courses. The placements are done using computer programs developed by OSA and InfoTech. However, the actual placements are based on decisions made by the relevant academic departments (i.e., Mathematics, English, and Language and Cognition).

Students are placed in courses based on their test scores. Placements are currently not available in CUNYfirst. However, student placements are provided in DegreeWorks. Entering (and continuing) students are eligible to take courses based on pre-requisites. These are translated into actual placements in DegreeWorks. Faculty advisors should consult DegreeWorks for the actual placements for incoming students.

Faculty and staff needing individual student placement and/or testing information should access that information directly in CUNYfirst or DegreeWorks. All test scores are available in CUNYfirst. Be aware that you should click on the 'View All' tab on the *Test Results View* (See pages 14 to 16 in this manual for additional information) in CUNYfirst. This will provide you with all the students test scores.

If a faculty member feels that a student has received an inappropriate placement, the faculty member should confer with the following department(s) to determine if a change is warranted:

- For ESL placements (including ESL 91, *formerly ENG 091*), contact the Language and Cognition Department (B-519, x6602)
- For ENG 91, *formerly ENG 091* and/or ENG 92, *formerly ENG 092*, contact the English Department (B-507, x6600)
- For Mathematics placements, contact the Mathematics Department (A-236, x6617)

Only after the change is approved **in writing by the relevant department**, should students be referred to OSA to make the change. Some faculty members in the Language and Cognition Department have access in CUNYfirst to put students into or remove students from the ESL students' groups (which is part of their placement). Students are **not** to be sent to OSA for placement changes until the approval(s) have been made in writing.

ACCUPLACER TESTING

Effective October 2016, the COMPASS exam was discontinued. As an alternative the City University of New York selected the College Board's ACCUPLACER as a tool for assessing readiness in Mathematics and Reading.

ACCUPLACER MATHEMATICS:

As an alternative to the COMPASS Math exam, effective October 2016, with the Spring 2017 admissions, the ACCUPLACER modules were introduced. This test is an adaptive examination (students who show insufficient Elementary Algebra knowledge are routed to lower level questions including basic Arithmetic questions, some of which are in an algebraic context).

Students scoring a **57 or higher** on ACCUPLACER's Elementary Algebra exam will be permitted to take a credit-bearing Mathematics course. Students who score **40 or higher** (but lower than 57) will be eligible to enroll in a top-level developmental Mathematics course. Students who score **39 or below** may be placed into a course or other

intervention that provides instructions to students for the next level course in an efficient manner.

ACCUPLACER READING:

As an alternative to the COMPASS Reading exam, effective October 2016, with the Spring 2017 admissions, the ACCUPLACER module was introduced and is also an adaptive examination. Students must earn a **55 or higher** on the ACCUPLACER Reading test for exemption from developmental reading.

ACCUPLACER Retesting:

Effective for the Spring 2017 admissions, students who score close to the cut point on the ACCUPLACER Reading and Elementary Algebra Placement Test will be automatically granted the opportunity to take the test again within 10 days before making a final placement decision. Specifically, students who score 45 or higher on ACCUPLACER Reading but below the cut point of 55 will be eligible for an automatic retake. Likewise, students who score 50 or higher on ACCUPLACER Elementary algebra but below 57 will be granted an opportunity to retest.

For more information about ACCUPLACER testing and/or placement courses contact the Testing Center at (718) 319-7921, or visit the office in Room B-207.

TESTING CENTER

General Information

As a part of The City University of New York (CUNY), Hostos requires that all entering students take the CUNY Assessment tests in reading, writing, and mathematics to demonstrate their proficiency and readiness to do college level work. A test of Spanish proficiency is given to students for appropriate placement in Spanish-language courses. No student is permitted to register without taking the required placement tests or showing acceptable proof of exemption accepted by the University. A valid government-issued photo ID (driver's license or state identification card) or Hostos Community College ID card is required for all testing – No Exceptions.

Testing Center

The Testing Center is committed to providing excellent customer service to our students, faculty and community, while ensuring the integrity of testing in a secure environment. The Testing Center administers several types of tests: placement tests for incoming freshmen and new transfer students, exit tests for students completing developmental classes or workshops, the Ability to Benefit (ATB) test to determine eligibility for New York State TAP benefits, and other tests for CUNY assessment purposes.

Testing for Students with Disabilities

Entering freshmen or transfer students who are taking the CUNY Assessment Tests for placement may be eligible for testing accommodations. These students should contact the

Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) immediately after filing their admissions application. Please visit the ARC website for further information: <http://www.hostos.cuny.edu/sswd/>

Entering freshmen

Results of CUNY and Hostos assessment tests are used to determine placement into the appropriate level of classes in reading, writing, English as a Second Language (ESL), mathematics, or languages (Spanish, French or Italian). For French and/or Italian students should speak with the Modern Language Department. Students who are placed in remedial or developmental courses will have an opportunity to retake the CUNY assessment test(s) after successfully completing those courses. Students should consult with an academic advisor or counselor to ensure that they meet the progress requirements of specific majors.

Transfer Students

Students transferring from colleges outside of CUNY **must** take the reading, writing, and mathematics skills assessment tests, unless they have an exemption, as outlined below. Students transferring from another CUNY college must have their skills test results transmitted to the Testing Center through the University's UAPC system. CUNY regulations prohibit the acceptance of assessment test scores in the form of paper transcripts or similar records. Students whose testing records are incomplete in the UAPC system must contact the CUNY College from which they are transferring to have their test records updated in UAPC. To avoid delays, this should be done well in advance of registration. Transfer students from other CUNY colleges should also be aware that passing a remedial or developmental course in another college is not the same as passing the associated CUNY assessment tests.

Readmit Students

Students re-admitting to CUNY after a period of non-enrollment may retake their CUNY assessment tests provided those tests not passed were taken at least three years prior to the term of re-admission.

Exemptions from CUNY Assessment Tests

Reading and Writing

You can demonstrate the necessary skill levels in reading and writing by meeting any of these criteria:

- SAT Critical Reading score of 480 or higher
- ACT English score of 20 or higher
- N.Y. State English Regents score of 75 or higher

Mathematics

Students are considered proficient in mathematics if they can document any one of the following:

- SAT Math score of 530 or higher
- ACT Math score of 21 or higher

- N.Y. State Regents: ◦ Score of 70 or higher in Algebra 1 or Geometry, or 65 or higher in the Algebra 2 exam will be considered proficient in mathematics
- Score of 75 or higher in one of the following: ◦ Math A or Math B Sequential II or Sequential III

- CUNY Assessment Tests: ◦ Numerical skills/pre-algebra (Math 1) score of 45 or higher (passing M1)

- Algebra (Math 2) score of 40 or higher (passing M2)

Students' need for mathematics remediation is based on results of the first two sections of the test: numerical skills/pre-algebra and algebra. All students will begin the test in algebra, and based on the performance in this section, will be routed downward into numerical skills/ pre-algebra, or upward into college algebra.

The test covers progressively advanced topics with placement into more advanced mathematics or mathematics-related courses based on results of the last three sections of the test. Minimum scores for entrance into these courses are set by the individual colleges based on their requirements and curricula.

All incoming freshmen who, based on their math SAT or Regents scores, have met the math college readiness/proficiency requirement will still be required to take the Math 3 test for placement into advanced mathematics. Math 3 is comprised of algebra, college algebra and trigonometry.

For freshmen students entering in Fall 2010 or later, there are new regulations governing the Regents exemption in Mathematics. These new regulations are related to the phase in of the new Regents sequence in Mathematics. Consult the CUNY Testing website for the details on these new regulations: www.cuny.edu/testing. However, students entering with an exemption in mathematics must still take the CUNY Assessment Test in Mathematics for placement purposes, only, to ensure appropriate placement into mathematics courses.

Transfer students who have already earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited college may also be exempt from testing. Determination of this exemption is made by the CUNY Office of Admissions Services. Students with the bachelor's degree exemption will still be tested in mathematics for placement purposes. Students whose degree is from an institution in which the language was other than English may also be tested in reading and writing for placement purposes.

Transfer students who have taken a college-level course in English or mathematics and earned a grade of C or better may be exempted from the relevant CUNY assessment test. (Note: English courses in which English was taught as a foreign language are NOT eligible for this exemption.) Students exempted in mathematics will be tested in mathematics for placement purposes, only. In addition, if the language of instruction at the previous college was not English, the student may also be tested in reading and writing for placement purposes.

All exemptions from testing MUST be requested at the time the student applies for admission to Hostos Community College, either as an entering freshman or as a transfer student. Requests for exemptions at a later date will not be honored. Students should discuss all requests for testing exemptions with an admissions counselor when they apply to the college.

As progress in certain career programs is measured by scores on the skills assessment test, it may be advisable for students who are exempt from testing to take the tests to determine the appropriate course sequences for them. For freshmen students entering in Fall 2010 or later, there are new regulations governing the Regents exemption in Mathematics. These new regulations are related to the phase in of the new Regents sequence in Mathematics. Consult the CUNY Testing website for the details on these new regulations: www.cuny.edu/testing.

However, students entering with an exemption in mathematics must still take the CUNY Assessment Test in Mathematics for placement purposes, only, to ensure appropriate placement into mathematics courses.

Testing Requirements for Transfer to a CUNY Senior College

Students planning to transfer to a CUNY senior college, directly or at a later time, must pass all three basic skills tests. Therefore, students are strongly advised to take and pass the writing, reading, and mathematics skills tests prior to applying for transfer. CUNY senior colleges will not admit students who have not passed all of the basic skills tests or have demonstrated proficiency by passing the required college level writing or math course. Students are urged to seek more detailed information about graduation and transfer requirements from their academic advisors.

Additional Information about Testing and Scores

Skills tests in reading and mathematics and Spanish placement are administered by computer. No special computer skills are required in order to take these tests. At the time of testing, students will receive complete instructions in the use of the facility. Office of Student Assessment website on the Hostos website contains current information about the CUNY skills tests. The URL is: <http://www.hostos.cuny.edu/Testing> . The site contains information about the specific tests, as well as the most current requirements and links to recommended testing preparation web sites. Students are also advised to consult the CUNY testing website: www.cuny.edu/testing. The CUNY website contains the most current and up-to-date information about the CUNY tests and current policy.

For more information contact the Testing Center at (718) 319-7921, or visit the office in Room B-207.

Office Hours: Call for Office Hours
(* Hours may change if testing is in progress)

Placement Criteria for Writing and Reading (Prior to Spring 2017)

Because of the new writing test (the CATW), the placement criteria for reading and writing courses have changed. The table below shows the new placement criteria for reading and writing.

CATW Score (Writing Score)	COMPASS Reading Score	Writing Placement	Reading Placement
56 or higher	70 or higher	ENG 110	No Reading Course Needed
56 or higher	69 or less	No Writing Course Needed	ENG 92*
48 to 55	80 or higher	ENG 94 or ENG 91*	No Reading Course Needed
24 to 40	68 or less	ENG 89 or ENG 91*	ENG 92*
23 or less	30 or less	CLIP	CLIP
55 or less	70 or higher	ENG 91*	No Reading Course Needed
55 or less	69 or less	ENG 91*	ENG 92*

* Refer to page 45 for changes to the Placement Criteria as of Fall 2014 – Spring 2017.

Note: Placement in ESL courses and CLIP are done by the Placement Committee of the Department of Language and Cognition.

Foreign Language Testing:

- Spanish Placement Test.
- The test is computer adaptive.
- The majority of students take about 20 minutes to complete the test
- Questions are in both English and Spanish (vocabulary, reading comprehension, grammar)
- Scores range from 0 to 950

Foreign Language Placement:

- Working with the Modern Languages Unit of the Humanities Department, placement algorithms have been developed to place students into SPA 121, SPA 222, SPA 117
- Non-Spanish speaking students are placed into SPA 101, or FRE 101 or ITA 101.

Exemptions from Testing and Placement

- SAT scores: students are exempt if they score above 480 on the verbal and/or quantitative parts of the SAT. Students with an exemption in mathematics are still tested for placement purposes on COMPASS Math.
- Regent's scores on ELA: students are exempt from Reading and Writing if they score 75 or above on the ELA.
- Regent's scores in Math: a score of 75 or higher in one of the following: Math A, Math B, Sequential II, or Sequential III or a score of 80 or higher in Integrated Algebra, or Geometry, or Algebra 2 & Trigonometry **AND** successfully completing Algebra 2 & Trigonometry or higher-level math course.

- Students with a prior B.A. from an **accredited** college or university: determination of this is done by UAPC. Any information provided by the student is sent, by Admissions, to UAPC in order for a determination to be made. However, if the language of instruction at their college was not English, these students can be tested, for placement purposes, in reading and writing.
- Q-exemption: Students who have taken a 3 credit **college level** English course at an **accredited** college or university and received a grade of C or higher are exempt from reading and writing tests. (Note: the course must be an English course. Courses in English as a foreign language are **not** acceptable.)
Students who have taken a 3 credit college level Mathematics course at an **accredited** college or university and received a grade of C or higher are exempt from the mathematics test. Students receiving the Q exemption in mathematics are still **required** to take the COMPASS Mathematics test for placement purposes only.
The Q-exemptions are given regardless of whether the student receives transfer credit for the course(s) at Hostos.

Some Pointers About What the Office of Student Assessment Can and Cannot Do:

For CUNY transfer students

- ☞ CUNY Assessment Test scores **MUST** be in the CUNY computer system (SKAT). If the test scores are not in SKAT, the scores will transfer over to CUNYfirst.
- ☞ Student Assessment is NOT able to enter scores directly into CUNYfirst (as per CUNY regulations). Scores are entered into SKAT and then transfer to CUNYfirst. It takes about 1 hour for a score to migrate from SKAT to CUNYfirst.
- ☞ We **cannot** and will **not** accept paper transcripts or forms, even in a sealed envelope.
- ☞ It is the student's responsibility to have the sending college enter the information into SKAT. Student Assessment can help, *in an emergency*, if necessary.

Exemptions from testing

- ☞ Regents and SAT exemptions: will be accepted and entered if they are on an official transcript or document in the Admissions Office. Exemptions can be entered into CUNYfirst by OSA.
- ☞ Bachelor degree (the B exemptions) **MUST** be approved and entered by UAPC on behalf of CUNY.
- ☞ Q-exemptions (based on courses) can be entered by Admissions and/or Student Assessment if the Transfer Credit Reviewer certifies that the course is equivalent to a college-level course. Exemptions can be entered into CUNYfirst by OSA.

Some Additional Pointers During Registration:

- ☞ Do **NOT** send students to the Assessment Office to obtain a printout of the test scores from CUNYfirst or DegreeWorks.

- ☞ Faculty and staff have access to all student testing information in CUNYfirst and placements in DegreeWorks.
- ☞ Do **NOT** advise/register students for a course that they have placed out of. CUNYfirst will not let the student register for those courses because of the complex pre-requisites, co-requisites, and anti-requisites built into the system. If a student cannot register for a course that you think he/she should be able to take, check to make sure the student's testing information has been updated. Also, check the Student Groups to see which group the student belongs to, if any.
- ☞ Do **NOT** send students to the Assessment Office for retesting because you think (or they think) that they could "do better this time." Students cannot and will not be retested unless they have participated in an approved Hostos intervention of at least 20 hours or taken the appropriate course.

IMPORTANT NOTE regarding the CPE:

- ☞ The CPE is no longer a requirement for graduation at CUNY. As such it is no longer administered. As appropriate, students should be advised of this.