

Basic Skills Assessment

How We Place You in Courses

You must have strong skills in reading, writing, and/or math to succeed in college-level courses (courses at the 100 or 200 level). These skills are often listed as pre-requisites or co-requisites for college-level classes.

If you are seeking a certificate or degree, you must take the Basic Skills Assessment Test (CPT ACCUPLACER®) in Mathematics, Reading, Computer Literacy and English (Sentence Skills) before your first semester of enrollment unless you meet one of the exemptions listed below. We use this test to place you in appropriate college or developmental courses. You may take each basic skills test two times per semester; we will use the higher of your two scores to place you in courses. If you wish to take the test more than twice during a semester, you may seek written permission from the chair of the specific discipline or show proof of progress in an approved tutorial program.

After you take the ACCUPLACER® test, we will provide you a written summary of the results. This summary will include information about state institutions offering basic skills courses, the costs of such courses, and the availability of such courses.

Important information regarding your test scores:

If you test into any basic skills courses, you must complete those courses within your first 30 credit hours of enrollment, and you must meet with an academic advisor. If you do not register for basic skills courses within your first 30 hours, PCC will place a hold on further registration until you meet with an academic advisor.

- *If you test into a basic skills reading course, you must take that course within your first semester of enrollment.*
- *If you test into developmental courses in two or more areas, we will advise you to enroll in AAA 090, Academic Achievement Strategies. This is a study skills course that will help you be successful in college.*
- *If you do not successfully test out of CIS 110, you must take that course within the first 30 hours of coursework.*

Exemptions to Taking the ACCUPLACER® Basic Skills Assessment

You are exempt from taking the entire CPT ACCUPLACER® test if you

- graduated from high school more than one year ago and have not yet declared a college major (you must provide the college with the name of the high school from which you graduated and your graduation date.)
- have not yet declared a major and are not taking courses that have English, reading, and/or math pre- or co-requisites.
- have a Baccalaureate degree.
- have an Associate of Arts or an Associate of Science degree.

You are exempt from taking portions of the CPT ACCUPLACER® test if, in the past five (5) years, you

- have ACT scores as follows:
 - 17 or higher in the Reading section
 - 18 or higher in the English section
 - 19 or higher in the Math section
- have SAT scores as follows:
 - 430 or higher in the Verbal Skill Area (exempts Reading)
 - 440 or higher in the Verbal Skill Area (exempts Reading and English)
 - 460 or higher in the Mathematics Skill Area
- have taken the ACCUPLACER® and attained the following scores:
 - 80 or higher in Reading Comprehension
 - 95 or higher for the Sentence Skills assessment
 - 85 or higher on the Elementary Algebra section

You are also exempt from taking portions of the CPT ACCUPLACER® test if you

- are a high school student, unless testing is required as a course pre- or co-requisite, or unless there are existing agreements with your school district that require taking all or part of the CPT ACCUPLACER® assessments.
- have successfully completed *college-level* courses in reading, English, and/or math (in which case you do not have to take assessment test in those subjects).
- have successfully completed certain *developmental* courses in reading, English, and/or math (in which case you do not have to take assessment tests in those subjects).

Please speak with an advisor if you have any questions about basic skills assessment.

Refer to www.cccs.edu (click on the “Find a Program” link) for information about Colorado colleges that offer developmental course instruction and assessment. Refer to the PCC Schedule of Classes for information.

Cost of the Basic Skills Assessment Test

There is a charge to take the Basic Skills Assessment. Please refer to the current PCC Schedule of Classes for more information.

Course Placement Based on Assessment Test Scores

For information about ACCUPLACER® scores, refer to the *Course Descriptions* section of this catalog.