

COMPASS PLACEMENT TESTING PROCESS TO ESTABLISH ABILITY-TO-BENEFIT

Note: Testing accommodations may be provided for individuals with identifiable special needs. With acceptable documentation, accommodations can be made for impediments such as vision, hearing, speech, mobility, and learning. For more information about testing accommodations, contact Special Resources at 327-8007 prior to your test session.

Students who do not have a recognized high school diploma or a GED can qualify for federal financial assistance by taking the COMPASS placement test and either meeting or exceeding the minimum required scores established by the U.S. Department of Education.

Students who take COMPASS for this purpose must take the test under approved Ability-to-Benefit (ATB) conditions which include completing the entire test in one testing session. Students must schedule an ATB appointment by calling the Assessment Center on the college's main campus at 803-981-7176.

Process

1. Upon application for admission and the student's completion of the Testing Payment Form, the Admissions Office will inform applicants if they fall under the Ability-to-Benefit criteria and inform them of the steps required to test under ATB conditions. Admissions staff will identify the placement test type as ATB on the Testing Payment Form.
2. The applicant will take the Testing Payment Form to the Business Office to pay their test fee and then schedule an appointment for the COMPASS placement test in the Assessment Center, located in A-Building, Room 203 on the college's main campus. The Business Office will stamp the form "Paid" and return it to the applicant. The applicant will present the Testing Payment Form to the Assessment Center staff upon arrival.
3. Once COMPASS is completed, the test proctor will record the test scores and certify the administration of the test. A copy of the test scores along with the Testing Payment Form will be issued to the applicant and a copy of the scores will be sent to the college's Financial Aid Department.
4. The applicant will then return to the Admissions Office to meet with an Admissions Counselor to review the COMPASS scores. Applicants meeting the minimum COMPASS admission criteria established by the College will be accepted to their desired program of study. At this time, the Counselor will also inform the student if he/she meets or exceeds the minimum ATB test scores as required by the U.S. Department of Education to be eligible to receive federal financial aid.
5. To be eligible for federal financial aid, The U.S. Department of Education requires that a student meet or exceed the following minimum scores on each of the three components of the COMPASS placement test in a single testing session:

Test	Required COMPASS Score
Reading	62
Writing	32
Pre-Algebra	25

Retesting

Students may request a retest when there is a substantial reason to believe that current COMPASS scores are not indicative of their current level of knowledge and skills because of factors during the testing session such as extreme physical illness, an interruption of the testing session, or other situations that could have affected the student's performance. Retesting can also be considered if there has been a significant change in the student's relevant knowledge and skills. Under these circumstances, students are allowed to take a second COMPASS test with no waiting period after the first test. There is a \$50 retest fee. Students must schedule an appointment with the Assessment Center on the main campus by calling 803-981-7176. Additional retests may be allowed 6 months from the last test date. Students must retake all three components during a single testing session and meet or exceed the minimum scores on each of the three components in that testing session. Retesting cannot occur on the same day as the initial test. Retesting must be approved by an Admissions Counselor who will indicate the appropriate reason on the Testing Payment Form.

