

The Key to Your Success in College

Success in college depends on many things, but one of the most important factors is choosing the right classes. Common sense says that you will be more successful if you take the right classes - not classes that are either too easy or too difficult.

To make choosing the right classes easier for you, the faculty has carefully determined what level of reading, writing, and math ability students need. These levels are called prerequisites. You may complete a prerequisite in one of two ways:

- Complete the prerequisite course, or
- Take the Assessment Test

You will see the prerequisites for each course in the college catalog.

If you take the Assessment Test, your score is used solely for the purpose of determining your skill level. Based on this skill level, entry into courses requiring a reading, writing or mathematics prerequisite skill level is determined. It is important to know, however, that these tests are meant for *placement purposes only*, they cannot keep you out of college.

These tests are important, but they are not the only tools the colleges use in helping students choose the right classes. In addition to the Assessment Tests, counselors and English and math faculty can help you choose the right courses.

Who Should Take Assessment Tests?

Assessment testing is optional, (Title 5, California Administrative Code, Section 55521) however, you should take the assessment tests if you:

- 1) plan to take an English or mathematics course;
- 2) plan to take a course that has an English or mathematics prerequisite or advisory;
- 3) plan to obtain an associate degree or certificate;
- 4) plan to transfer to a four-year college or university.

Note: Sample questions are available in the Admissions or Counseling office on campus, or online at <http://studentweb.sdccd.edu>. Click on the "View all resources available" link. You can look at the questions on these tests to help you decide which test to take. If you are still not sure, a counselor can help you decide.

Students can choose their classes based on other factors, such as their past educational achievements in mathematics or English classes, and how long it has been since they last took such classes. The assessment process can assist students in deciding the appropriate place to start. Before deciding not to go through assessment, students are encouraged to seek the advice of a counselor.

The English Assessment Tests

There are two types of English tests. It is important that students take the right one. Students who take the wrong test often waste many semesters taking classes that are too difficult.

English Placement Tests

This test is designed for native speakers of English. If English is not your primary language, but you are very comfortable using English and use it most of the time, then the English Placement Test is the right one for you to take.

Test for Non-Native Speakers of English

The ESOL Program is designed to prepare students to read, write, speak and listen at a level that enables them to succeed in college courses. This test is appropriate if English is not your primary language, you are not very comfortable with English, or if you speak, read, and write your native language most of the time. The program consists of four levels and the student is assigned a level based on the result of his/her placement test.

Mathematics Test

There are two mathematics tests available, Algebra Readiness and Intermediate Algebra. The Algebra Readiness test will help you determine if you have the necessary skills to be successful in the algebra sequence. The Intermediate Algebra test will help you determine if you are ready for transfer level mathematics courses. Choose the test that most closely matches the last mathematics course you took.

Understanding the Results of the Placement Tests

The placement tests will give you a skill level in reading (for example, R40), writing (for example, W50), math (for example, M20), or ESOL (for example, L30). A list that explains these results follows on the next page.

ASSESSMENT/PLACEMENT LEVEL INTERPRETATION

<u>Student Skill Level</u>	<u>Skill Level Interpretation</u>
Reading 30 (R30) (formerly Engl 55)	Eligibility for English 042
Reading 40 (R40) (formerly Engl 56)	Eligibility for English 048
Reading 50 (R50)	Eligibility for English 101 in Reading
Reading 60 (R60)	Completion of English 101
Writing 30 (W30) (formerly Engl 50)	Eligibility for English 043
Writing 40 (W40) (formerly Engl 51)	Eligibility for English 049
Writing 50 (W50)	Eligibility for English 101 in Writing
Writing 60 (W60)	Completion of English 101
*ESOL 19 (L19) (formerly levels 06 & 07)	Eligibility for *ESOL 019
*ESOL 20 (L20) (formerly level 08)	Eligibility for *ESOL 020, 021 & 022
*ESOL 30 (L30) (formerly level 09)	Eligibility for *ESOL 030, 031 & 032
*ESOL 40 (L40) (formerly level 10)	Eligibility for *ESOL 040 or
*ESOL 40 (L40)	Eligibility for *ESOL 040 or option to take the test for native speakers
Math 10 (M10)* (formerly Math 32)	Eligibility for Math *034, 033
Math 20 (M20) (formerly Math 35)	Eligibility for Math 038
Math 30 (M30) (formerly Math 95)	Eligibility for Math 046
Math 40 (M40)	Eligibility for Math 084, 085, 096, 098
Math 50** (M50)	Eligibility for Math 104, 107, 116, 118, 119, 210A

*ESOL = English for Speakers of Other Languages

**This is the minimum level of proficiency in math for baccalaureate transfer level courses.

EXAMPLES: If your skill level is R50, W50, M30 you are eligible to enroll in classes that require eligibility for English 101 or eligibility for Math 095 or any classes with lower requirements. If a course requires eligibility for English 051 and 056, your level would have to be Reading R40 (eligibility for English 056) and Writing W40 (eligibility for English 051) or higher. If a course requires eligibility for Math 096, your skill in mathematics would have to be at least M40.

The San Diego Community College District

STUDENT ASSESSMENT And Placement

***San Diego City College
San Diego Mesa College
San Diego Miramar College
The Educational Cultural Complex***

