

Prepare for Your Assessment Tests

Bakersfield College, like all colleges, tests students in reading, math and writing in order to place them in the class where they are most likely to succeed. These assessments or tests are online and if students practice **BEFORE** they take the tests they can significantly improve their scores and get placed into a higher level class.

The set of tests called **COMPASS** are not timed but there are some tips to doing well on these tests. You will have 4 hours to take the test, but most students complete the tests in 2 hours. You will at first be asked easy questions that will get more and more difficult. If you answer several questions incorrectly, the computer assumes that that is your level and the test will stop.

What is the COMPASS Test?

COMPASS is a computerized adaptive test that measures skills and comprehension levels in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics to determine readiness for college-level courses in these areas. By obtaining the required COMPASS program score, students are eligible to register in college level courses. Scoring below the required score on the placement test means that the student may lack prerequisite knowledge or skill and needs remediation in that area.

Reading Test

The student is given one or more passages to read, and then answers questions about the passage.

Writing Test

The student is presented with an essay and asked to look for errors in grammar, punctuation, usage, and style.

Mathematics Test

The student solves problems which measure numerical, pre-algebra, and algebra skills. Some of the areas included are:

- basic operations with integers, fractions, and decimals
- exponents
- ratios and proportions
- percentages
- topics in elementary algebra, intermediate algebra, and coordinate geometry.

ESL Compass Test

Students whose first language is not English should take this version. This new online version simplifies the process for ESL students and the tests are user friendly.

Below are a set of free online COMPASS practice tests:

Official COMPASS website and includes practice online tests and downloadable practice tests, go here:

<http://www.act.org/compass/sample/index.html>

ESL overview and practice questions, go here:

<http://www.act.org/esl/sample.html>

ACT COMPASS math practice tests online, go here:

http://www.highlands.edu/wcotter/COMPASS/math_practice.htm

COMPASS practice tests in writing, reading and math, go here:

<http://www.dekalbtech.edu/student-services/practicecompass-test.html>

Set of free COMPASS assessment practice tests, go here:

http://www.testprepreview.com/compass_practice.htm