

Tips for Taking the Placement Tests

Take the placement tests seriously. Your placement test results will determine into which classes you are eligible to enroll. Retesting is limited, so do your best the first time.

If you are taking our English placement exam, read through the instructions and the entire essay and underline the important points. Write a rough draft (you will be given scrap paper). Organize your thoughts and ideas. Start by writing an introduction which will state the purpose of your essay. The remaining paragraphs should flow from there.

During the English and math tests, work carefully. The math test is computerized and English consists of a written essay. Don't rush; both are untimed. For both tests, read and re-read the questions carefully, and check each answer before submitting them. This will result in the most accurate course placement.

The Department of Learning and Student Development at SUNY Sullivan offers an array of student support services. They include:

- **Academic Advising & Registration**
- **Advocacy & Mentoring**
- **Change of Curriculum/Advisor**
- **Disability Services**
- **First Year Experience**
- **Free Tutoring**
- **Operation Rebound**
- **Personal Counseling**
- **Placement & ATB testing**
- **New Student Orientation**
- **Workshops & Programs**
- **Withdrawal from College**



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SUNY Sullivan Placement Testing

*Department of
Learning and Student
Development Services*

www.sunysullivan.edu

How to prepare for your placement tests

Make sure you carefully read and follow the exam instructions.

Review basic Algebra including signed numbers, order of operations, evaluating expressions, solving equations and inequalities, graphing, exponents, polynomials, factoring, radical expressions, and rational expressions. Know the steps to figure out a problem. Try some practice problems, and think logically.

Study and review the subjects you are testing. Study and review may help improve your placement for math, a subject for which you may not have recently practiced.

Writing in college is more than grammar and punctuation. It also involves critical thinking skills. The more you read and understand information, the better writer you will become. It's also about concepts of organization and presenting clear ideas.

Familiarize yourself with the type of test questions that are found on the tests. Sample test questions are available on the links inside this brochure. Knowing the format of the test questions can help you relax and concentrate during the test.

Get a good night's sleep and have a light meal or snack before arriving to the test session. The English and math test will take approximately 2 hours. Being tired and/or hungry could hurt your performance in any test session.

What about test prep sites? There are several free test sites online. There are some that are fee based. We do not endorse any particular websites, but are providing some links that you might find useful.

www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/accuplacer

www.testpreview.com

www.4tests.com

www.enablemath121.com (fee)

www.studyzone.com

Frequently asked questions

What is the purpose of placement testing? Placement tests provide useful information about your academic skill level. The placement test results, along with your academic background and interests will help you and your advisor choose first semester courses.

Will I need to take a placement test? Admissions counselors review the academic records of new students to determine who has to test. They look at HS regents scores, SAT scores and transfer coursework.

SUNY Sullivan's policy on placement testing can be found in the college catalogue available online at www.sunysullivan.edu. Click on the admissions tab, then click on college catalogue and admissions.

What is the math placement test? We administer the Accuplacer computerized basic Algebra test. Accuplacer is an adaptive test which means that questions given are based on how you answer the previous questions. All questions are within a certain range. There are 17 multiple choice questions. You will be given pencil and scrap paper so you can figure out the problems. Calculators are permitted.

What is the English placement test? The English test consists of writing an essay designed to assess skills in writing, and critical thinking. Students read an essay, and are asked to write a well developed response, following the directions given.

Is the placement test timed? No, the test is not timed. The math test usually takes 30 to 45 minutes and the English test usually takes 60 to 75 minutes to complete.

I had testing accommodations in high school. Will I be able to have them for placement testing? Students must provide documentation about accommodations and should contact the Learning Center at 845.434.5750 x 4328 or x 4462 prior to testing.

