

INFORMATION ON THE UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT IN ENGLISH COMPOSITION, MATHEMATICS & READING

The University Placement Assessment Program in English Composition, Mathematics and Reading are part of a program aimed at ensuring that all Chicago State University students have achieved college level competence in the basic skills. The results from these assessments are used to 1) measure the student's level of proficiency, 2) identify academic deficiencies, and 3) determine eligibility for professional & major courses.

New freshmen and transfer student alike must take the appropriate assessment either before or immediately after entering the University. They must be taken before the end of a student's first term of attendance. You can find information about schedules and general advice at www.csu.edu/Examinations/ or call (773) 995-2481.

ASSESSMENT IN ENGLISH COMPOSITION: Every new or transfer undergraduate student must take the appropriate English assessment.

The English examination requires you to write an essay in ninety (90) minutes. New freshman or those transferring less than 3 hours of composition credit write a 300-350 word essay that explains something. Those transferring 3 or more hours of composition credit write a 400-450 word essay that argues a position. Your score depends on your ability to write a logical, well-organized essay of several paragraphs that demonstrates control over English grammar. Results will determine courses in which students are eligible to enroll.

An additional study guide is available for purchase in the University Bookstore.

ASSESSMENT IN MATHEMATICS: The Mathematics Placement Assessment consists of two parts: arithmetic and algebra. CSU uses the ACT Compass computerized math placement assessment. Depending upon your placement assessment, you may be recommended into your first math course, or you may be required to enroll in Math 099 Level 1 and/or Level 2 depending upon your placement.

The arithmetic portion will include the following skills: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals, percents, improper fractions, and word problems involving the solution of proportions.

The algebra portion consists of the following skills: solving linear equations & inequalities, graphing linear systems; adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing polynomials, factoring algebraic expressions; adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing algebraic expressions; simplifying radical expressions; solving equations involving radicals; and using the quadratic formula.

Any high school algebra I book can be used for review. A few sample problems are available at www.act.org/compass. A review booklet ("Everything you need to know about the Math Exam") is also available for purchase in the bookstore.

ASSESSMENT IN READING: The Reading Assessment is required of all entering CSU students. The assessment is the Compass Reading Placement Assessment, which measures two areas of reading, vocabulary and comprehension (understanding). Students who do not achieve a passing score are required to enroll in Read 150.

Additional information on the reading and math Compass assessments may also be obtained at www.act.org/compass (There is a link on our web page.)