

ACCUPLACER® TEST PREPARATION

Dutchess Community College uses the ACCUPLACER computer-adaptive college placement test to assist students by:

- Evaluating incoming students' skill levels in Reading, Sentence Skills, and Math.
- Placing students in appropriate Reading, English and Math courses.
- Connecting students to the support services needed to achieve academic success.

Important information to know about ACCUPLACER:

- The test is untimed and taken on a computer.
- It is not used like a traditional test. There is generally no "passing score." Rather, scores indicate areas of strength and areas which may need development.
- ACCUPLACER is a computer-adaptive test, which means that the test administers questions based on the previous answer. Since it is adaptive, it is not possible to go back once an answer has been submitted.
- **Personal calculators are not permitted**, however some of the mathematics questions have **pop-up calculators**. The questions were written so that the use of a calculator will not help answer the question, but is provided simply as a tool to use to solve the problem.

Examples:

- If asked to calculate the area of a rectangle, the formula for calculating the area must be known. The calculator is available in this case as a tool for multiplying the length times the width; it will not help if the formula is not known.
 - If asked to estimate the value of 9.755 times 5.688, the calculator is not available, because the question is asking to round 9.755 to 10, and 5.688 to 6, and then multiply 10 times 6 mentally. Since the use of the calculator would help answer this type of question, the calculator is not available. This type of question is used to measure your number sense.
 - The calculator icon will appear on the screen when the calculator is allowed.
- Use of a dictionary is not permitted for the ACCUPLACER tests.
 - Scratch paper is provided and students are strongly encouraged to use the scratch paper, particularly when answering math problems.

Testing Accommodations

Extended Time: Students needing extended time for testing may take the ACCUPLACER without prior authorization from the Office of Accommodative Services (OAS).

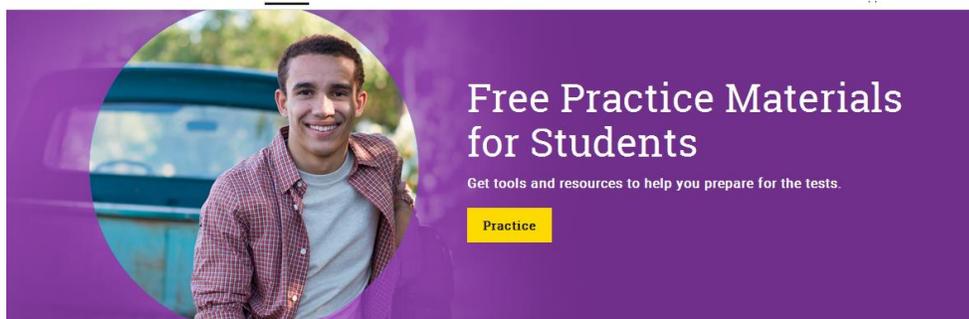
All Other Accommodations: All accommodations besides extended time **MUST be approved** by OAS prior to scheduling placement tests with the Office of Academic Service and Testing. Calculator use may constitute a fundamental alteration of the test and will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

- DCC students: Contact OAS at 845-431-8055 for information regarding documentation requirements needed to establish accommodations. Students will be notified in writing of approved accommodations.
- High School Students testing at their high school: The high school staff must notify DCC testing staff of accommodations needed at least 72 hours prior to testing. (FYI: Testing at the high school is limited to concurrent enrollment testing.)

Accommodations are not retroactive. Students who choose to take the placement test without accommodations may not re-take the placement test with accommodations.

TIPS FOR TAKING ACCUPLACER® TESTS

1. Relax! The ACCUPLACER tests are designed to help you succeed in college. Your scores help determine which courses are most appropriate for your current level of knowledge and skills. Once your academic strengths and challenges are identified, you can get the assistance you need to improve underdeveloped skills before they interfere with your learning and successful academic progress.
2. Familiarize yourself with the test by downloading the **Official FREE ACCUPLACER Study App** and reviewing the **ACCUPLACER sample questions** located at: accuplacer.collegeboard.org . DCC administers “**Classic**” ACCUPLACER, so be sure to select the “**Classic**” materials for review.



3. ACCUPLACER placement results are extremely important, so approach the test seriously. Results determine your course placement, so don't take the test if you are not prepared or are not feeling well. **FYI:** Test scores are valid for two and a half years. Students may re-test within one year only after completing a significant and approved academic intervention program such as Reclaim My Math, Refresh or SMARTSTART or if approved by the Director of Academic Services and Testing or his/her designee.
4. You will be able to concentrate better on the test if you get plenty of rest and eat properly before the test.
5. You should also arrive a few minutes early so you can find the testing area, bathrooms, etc., and have time to gather your thoughts before the test begins.
6. The complete test takes about 2 to 3 hours, so make sure you allow enough time to complete your test.
7. Be sure you understand the directions for each test before that test session begins. Ask questions if needed.
8. Read each question carefully until you understand what the question is asking. If answering an item requires several steps, be sure you consider them all.
9. Read each answer choice to ensure you are selecting the best answer.
10. If you have a problem or question during the test, raise your hand and the proctor will help you. Although they cannot answer test questions for you, they can help you with other types of problems.