Triton College Placement Test
Importance of Placement Test

What is the placement test?

• Triton College uses ACT’s COMPASS - Computer Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System.
  • Used to make sure students are placed into the most appropriate level of courses based on college readiness.
  • Determines your preparation level in the subjects of Reading, English, and Math.
Importance of Placement Test

Why is it so important?

- You are more likely to be successful when you start out at the correct level.
- Placement test results will determine whether you place into college level courses or into developmental education courses.
- Testing without preparation may not place you into the appropriate level resulting in extra TIME and MONEY from having to enroll in additional courses.
Placement Test

Testing Time and Location
• Total testing time is approximately 2 1/2 hours.
• Students can take any portion of the test, in any order, on separate days.
• Administered daily in the Learning Resource Center building, Testing Center Room A-126.
• Appointments are not necessary.
**COMPASS Math Test**

- Computerized test is untimed and adaptive.
- Consists of thirty to sixty-five multiple-choice questions.
- Students are permitted to use approved calculators on the test.
- The COMPASS Math test may cover the following areas: Pre Algebra, Algebra, College Algebra, and Trigonometry
- For a list of approved calculators check the ACT COMPASS official site at www.act.org/compass.
COMPASS Reading

• Computerized test is untimed and adaptive.
• Consists of four to ten passages of various lengths.
• Each passage is followed by eight to fifteen multiple-choice questions about the reading.
• Reading comprehension questions are of two types: “referring” and “reasoning.”
Placement Test

COMPASS Writing Skills

• Computerized test is untimed and adaptive.
• Consists of three to six passages of various lengths.
• Fifteen to twenty-five multiple-choice questions about portions of the passage.
## Placement Test Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATHMATICS</th>
<th>READING</th>
<th>WRITING SKILLS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compass Score</td>
<td>Course Equivalent</td>
<td>Compass Score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Algebra 0 - 30</td>
<td>MAT 045*</td>
<td>0 - 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Algebra 31 - 54</td>
<td>MAT 050*</td>
<td>50 - 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Algebra 55 - 100</td>
<td>MAT 055*</td>
<td>70 - 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebra 26 - 45</td>
<td>MAT 096*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Algebra 75 - 100</td>
<td>MAT 080* 085* 099* 103*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebra 46 - 65</td>
<td>66 - 100</td>
<td>114 116 170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Algebra 31 - 45</td>
<td>MAT 101 102 110 111</td>
<td>101 111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Algebra 46 - 100</td>
<td>MAT 124 134</td>
<td>College Algebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trigonometry 0 - 45</td>
<td>MAT 131</td>
<td>Reading:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trigonometry 46 - 100</td>
<td></td>
<td>Writing Skills:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Courses which correspond to your scores are checked in the chart.

Courses with ESL designation are highly recommended for those persons for whom English is a second language.

** The minimum requirements for enrollment in RHT 101 are a Reading score of 70 and a Writing Skills score of 83 or above.

MAT 096: If you pass MAT 045 or MAT 050 with a “A”, you are eligible to take...
Placement Test Exemptions

• All new students are required to take the placement test unless you meet the following exemptions.
  - ACT Scores within last two years
    • 20 in Critical Reading
    • 20 in English
    • 23 in Math
  - College level coursework
    • Successfully completed college level English and Math courses with a “C” or better
Financial Aid Impact

- Students have up to 96 credit hours of aid at a two-year institution.
- Students have up to six years (or 12 full-time semesters) of some federal aid.
- Developmental coursework can impact financial aid money that could be used to support courses towards a degree.
Preparing For An Exam

• Read different types of passages and focus on understanding the material (including the writing style)
• Review math skills, even “simple” math from long ago
• Review grammar skills
• Use time management skills when studying (marathon not a sprint)
• Learn new vocabulary
• Use online and library resources
• Find a study buddy
• PRACTICE! PRACTICE! PRACTICE!
• Analyze, ask, and stay calm.
• Make the best use of your time.
• Ask any questions regarding the instructions.
• Don’t get distracted by others finishing before you.
• If you feel yourself starting to panic, stop what you are doing and take a deep breath.
• Use clues in the test to jog down your memory.
• Re-check your work.
• Let staff know if you have any questions or concerns.
- Test anxiety is a psychological condition in which people experience extreme distress and anxiety in testing situations.
- Anxiety is a normal, and sometimes helpful, response to potential stressors.
- Anxiety can add adrenaline to your blood stream, making your heart beat faster.
- While people have the skills and knowledge to do very well in testing situations, their excessive anxiety impairs their performance.
Test Anxiety

What are the possible causes?

• Being Disorganized.
  – Not following directions
• Unrealistic Expectations
  – Perfectionism
  – Excessive self-criticism
• Lack of Preparation
  – Cramming the night before a test
• Triggers
  – Other students finishing first
  – Perception of test question
Test Anxiety

Combating Test Anxiety

• Control breathing.
• Count to Three.
• Stretch your muscles.
• Sit relaxed, no tense muscles.
• Focus on the positive.
• Do not allow anyone to undermine your confidence.
• Visit your campus counseling center to other tips, including visualization.
Placement Test Tips

- Take your placement test seriously!
- Remember, you are only allowed one retest each year and there is a retest fee.
- Placing into the right courses will help you achieve your educational goals faster.
- Come to your session well rested and fed.
- Allow plenty of time to complete testing without rushing.
- Ask the Testing Center staff for assistance if needed.
- Review materials are available online at [www.triton.edu/testingcenter](http://www.triton.edu/testingcenter) and through the Academic Success Center (located in A-106). Additionally, the Library has a copy of the book, *Chart Your Success on the COMPASS Test* and a study guide, *Triton College’s Placement Test Review Guide* on reserve.
What To Bring To The Test

New students must:

• Fill out an Triton College Application at www.triton.edu/application

• Present a valid photo ID (Driver’s License, State/Government ID, Passport, School ID, Other ID card which includes both your name and photo)

To request special testing accommodations, please contact the Center for Access and Accommodative Services at (708) 456-0300, ext. 3854.
Triton College Testing Center
Learning Resource Center, Room 126
(708) 456-0300, ext. 3252
www.triton.edu/placementtesting