PLACEMENT TEST PREPARATION GUIDE

English as a Second Language

Taking Your Placement Tests

Are you ready?

All new students must take a placement test. Take time to look at this *Placement Test Preparation Guide*. It will help you

- understand the test.
- be ready for the test.
- take the classes that are best for you.
Placement Test Preparation

Placement testing is required for all new students. If English is not your first language, you must take the ESL COMPASS® placement tests and a writing placement test at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C). These tests will help Tri-C decide the courses that you should take. It is very important to prepare for the placement tests. If you prepare carefully and do your best on the tests, this can save you time and money.

The COMPASS® placement tests assess your grammar and reading skills. They are on a computer and there is no time limit—that is, you may work at your own speed. After you finish the COMPASS® placement tests, you will get a report with your grammar and reading scores. Then you will take a writing test. This test is not on the computer.

To prepare for the COMPASS® placement tests, review the General Test Taking Tips below. Then use the online links on the last page of this guide to find useful videos and the Sample Test Questions for reading and grammar/usage.

General Test Taking Tips

Before the Test

_Start the Night Before_

Get a lot of rest and eat well. This will help you concentrate during the test.

_Be Prepared_

Look carefully at this review guide. You will learn how to use the computer for the test, and you will see sample questions.

Remember to bring photo identification, your Tri-C student number, and your glasses, if you need them.

obby Enough Time

There is no time limit on the COMPASS® placement tests. Give yourself enough time to complete the tests. Don’t rush.

_FOCUS_

Do not worry about the test results. Just focus on getting ready for the test.
During the Test

**Read Carefully**

Be sure you understand the directions for each test, and be sure to ask questions if you don’t understand.

Read each question, text, and problem carefully. Make sure you understand what the question is asking. If there are several steps in the question, be sure you answer all of them.

If you have a problem or question during the test, ask the test proctor for help. Proctors cannot answer specific test questions for you, but they can help you with other types of problems.

**Answering Multiple Choice Questions**

Read the question carefully. Think of an answer before you look at the answers on the test. This way, the choices on the test won't confuse you.

Read all the answer choices. Decide what answers you know are not correct. Then choose the best correct answer.

On the COMPASS® placement tests, it is important to *answer every question*. If you are not sure, you should make a guess. Choose an answer, but don't keep changing your response. Usually your first choice is the best one.

**The Parts of the ESL Test**

There are three tests: Reading, Grammar Usage, and Writing. (There is no Listening test.)

The ESL COMPASS® Reading and Grammar Usage tests are on the computer. There is *no time limit* on these tests.

The Writing test is on paper. When you finish the computer part of the test, the test proctor will give you a piece of paper, and a picture or a topic to write about. Do your best. Describe the picture or write about the topic. *This test has a time limit*. The test proctor will tell you how much time.

**After the Test**

After you finish the COMPASS® placement tests, you will receive a copy of your scores. Next, you will meet with an ESL evaluator to discuss your scores and writing test. Your test results help you and the evaluator understand your current level of English skills. After the ESL evaluator gives you your ESL placement, you can register for ESL classes.

If the evaluator decides that you do not need ESL classes, you will go back to the Assessment Center for further testing and evaluation in order to place you in Tri-C classes.
Sample Test Questions

ESL Placement Test

Here is some online information and practice for you. This will help you prepare before you take the test.

Click on these links for short videos to help you prepare.

**Video #1:** The COMPASS® Test Practices – How Do I Use Them?  
http://screencast.com/t/eisxCKGDN

*NOTE: When you click to start the video, it takes a few moments for it to open. Be patient.*

**Video #2:** ESL Placement Test: What Does the Screen Look Like?  
http://screencast.com/t/VhRoTKFVw

**Sample Test Questions:** Here is the link for you to use for the online testing preparation. Use this link to practice. http://www.act.org/compass/tests/esl.html

*NOTE: There is no Listening test. You can go directly to the Reading and Grammar Usage questions.*

Where to Take the Placement Tests

When you finish the Placement Test Preparation, you can take the placement tests at any of the Tri-C testing centers. If you need more information about the placement tests, call the testing center of your choice. Here are the Tri-C testing centers (Assessment Centers):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brunswick University Center</td>
<td>BUC 214</td>
<td>216.987.3877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate College West</td>
<td>CCW 221</td>
<td>216.987.5888</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Campus</td>
<td>ESS 1108</td>
<td>216.987.2256</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Campus</td>
<td>MSS 103</td>
<td>216.987.4311</td>
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<td>Western Campus</td>
<td>WTLGC GT 115</td>
<td>216.987.5256</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westshore Campus</td>
<td>SHCS 130</td>
<td>216.987.3888</td>
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