

Southwestern Community College
Accuplacer-College Placement Test
General Information
586-4091 ext. 332/338

- **Purpose of CPT**
- **Test Requirements for Admission**
- **Retest Policy**
- **Special Accommodations**
- **Test Description**
- **Score Report**
- **Confidentiality**
- **How to Schedule a Test Session**

Purpose:

Placement testing at Southwestern Community College is an accurate way of assessing a student's level in reading, English and Mathematics. Using the results of this test, the student's academic readiness will be matched to the academic requirements of English and math classes. The Accuplacer College Placement Test (CPT) was developed by the College Board to provide academic readiness information. This computerized Placement Test adapts to your skill level and automatically determines which questions are asked based upon your answers to previous questions. The Accuplacer is not a timed test.

Types of Test:

There are four tests available, all consist of multiple-choice questions: Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills, Arithmetic and Elementary Algebra. You must answer every question; you cannot skip any question or come back later to change an answer.

Descriptions of the Test:

- **Reading Comprehension**-This test measures your ability to understand what you read. Some questions will ask you to read the statement or passage and then choose the best answer to the question. Answer the question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage. The test contains 20 questions.
- **Sentence Skills**-This test measures your understanding of how sentences are put together and what makes a sentence clear and complete. This test contains 20 questions.
- **Arithmetic**-This test measures your ability to perform basic arithmetic operations and to solve problems that involve fundamental arithmetic concepts.
- **Elementary Algebra**-This test measures your ability to perform basic algebraic operations and to solve problems that involve elementary algebraic concepts.

Testing Requirements for Admission:

Applicants to a program of study are required to demonstrate competence in reading, grammar and mathematics.

Competence can be demonstrated in three ways:

1. Students can have successfully completed algebra and English courses at the college level
OR
2. Students can have SAT scores of at least 500 Verbal (Critical Reading) and 500 Math or an ACT composite score of at least 21. (A minimum score of 400 on each section of the SAT or 18 composite on the ACT will be accepted if the test was taken prior to April 1, 1995)
OR

3. Students can take the College Board's **ACCUPLACER (CPT)** offered free by SCC to all applicants. Sentence skills, reading, algebra and arithmetic are the subject areas included on the test. The average test completion time is 1 1/2 hours. For students whose test scores fall below established minimums, the College requires developmental education courses to improve basic skills. Applicants will receive information from the Admissions Office on how to schedule a test session. **You must present photo I.D. at the time of testing.**

- **SCC Testing and Study Guide:** For more information on preparing for the ACCUPLACER (CPT), click on the SCC testing study guide and a sample test: www.southwest.cc.nc.us/admissn/testing.htm
- **Other Study Guides:**
 - Study Guide (free): www.aims.edu/student/assessment/study_guides.htm
 - Sample Test (free): www.yccd.edu/assessment/sample.html
 - Sample Math Test (free): <http://mymathtest.com/>

4. **Test Regulations - Calculators**, notebooks, dictionaries or textbooks are not allowed in the testing room. The testing center will provide scratch paper and a pencil for test takers. All cell phones need to be turned off during testing. Talking to other students is not allowed.

Score Reports:

Upon completion of the test, you will receive a printed score report. The test administrator or a counselor in Student Services will interrupt your scores. Your scores are considered valid for initial placement for a period of 3 years from the date the assessment was completed.

Retest Policy:

If a student places into a Developmental Education course, and he/she feels that the placement test did not adequately reflect her/his skill level, the student may request a retest. If after the retest, he/she continues to feel that the test did not adequately reflect her/his skill level and he/she places in the borderline range of 47-50 percentile in Sentence Skills, the student may be permitted to demonstrate proficiency by writing a one-page essay under the direction of the Dean of Arts & Sciences.

Confidentiality:

Your test scores and the information you provide when taking the test will only be provided to The College Board, to Southwestern Community College, and to the state to meet state information requirements. The information may be used to document whether or not you have met state testing requirements. The College Board may also use it for research and training purposes. Your test information will not be disclosed for any other purpose without your permission. If you have any questions about confidentiality, please see your Test Administrator.

Special Accommodations:

If you have a disability (permanent or temporary) that will affect taking the test under standard conditions, you should request accommodations **before** taking the test. Reasonable accommodations will be provided with appropriate documentation of disability. Documentation must be presented to the Director of Student Support Services.

How to Schedule a Test Session:

You must submit your application to attend SCC to the Admissions Office before you test. Appointments to test are required and may be schedule by calling 586-4091 ex. 332, 338 or contacting any staff member in our Admissions Office.

HOAE Instructions & Description

Revised PSB-Health Occupations Aptitude Examination

You have signed up for the HOAE by paying the \$10 fee. **Note the date and location of the test – the test begins promptly at 9:00 am. NO ONE WILL BE ADMITTED AFTER 9:00 AM! PHOTO ID REQUIRED to take test!**

Please read the information and instructions that follow.

INSTRUCTIONS:

General - Before the Test Tips:

1. The lack of adequate rest the night before will affect test-taking efficiency.
2. Relax, too much worry and anxiety is neither necessary nor helpful.
3. Mobilize your self-confidence; be positive, your attitude is important!
4. Take care of any personal needs before the testing begins.
5. Report illness, excessive fatigue, or other conditions that would be a hindrance, to the test administrator prior to beginning the test.
6. Bring water, tissue, cough drops, and anything else you may need during the test.
7. No restroom breaks during the test are permitted.
8. No children, visitors or pets are permitted.
9. All cell phones and pagers must be turned off during the test. Anyone violating this rule will be asked to leave.
10. No refunds are given if you fail to show. If you miss your scheduled test date, upon notification to the test administrator (ext. 338) you may be rescheduled for another test date during the same academic year.

Specific Tips:

1. Listen carefully to the oral directions that are given to you.
2. Read the General Instructions carefully and follow them exactly.
3. Instructions for each part of the examination must be read and interpreted within given time limits.
4. The directions are simple and should be read quickly but be sure you understand how to proceed within the particular section.
5. Plan for maximum use of the time allotted for each part of the examination.
6. Read the questions carefully. Work rapidly, answer as many questions as possible.
7. Do not waste time puzzling over a difficult question. While the test questions are arranged in approximate order of difficulty, some earlier questions may be more difficult for you than later ones.
8. When you have finished the easier questions, if there is time left, go back to any question you may have skipped in that part of the examination.
9. Indiscriminate guessing does not pay off. An educated, reasoned guess may be worthwhile, however, random guessing is not recommended.
10. If you change an answer to a question, be sure the change is justified.

DESCRIPTION:

The *Revised PSB-Health Occupations Aptitude Examination* is comprised of five tests and three subtests.

Part 1 ACADEMIC APTITUDE

1. **Verbal Subtest** - The verbal aspect consists of 30 vocabulary-related test questions. Empirical evidence has shown this type of test item to be highly related to academic success.
2. **Arithmetic Subtest** - The numerical aspect consists of 30 items drawing largely from arithmetic. To some degree, it involves skill with arithmetical concepts along with computational speed. The content of the numerical items is that to which practically all eighth grade students have been exposed.
3. **Nonverbal Subtest** - The nonverbal aspect consists of 30 test items calling for comprehension of form relationships. The measurement is in terms of the ability to manipulate shapes mentally, to reason out differences in pictured objects, and to deal with concrete materials through visualization. Recognition of relationships and of differences between shapes has been shown by research to be basic to learning aptitude.

Academic Aptitude Total - The Academic Aptitude test, as measured by the Total, might be thought of as the ability to learn. The test content is specifically adapted for appraising the combination of native and acquired abilities that are needed for work of an academic nature. The Academic Aptitude test emphasizes familiar experiences and concepts while requiring careful reasoning and ability to comprehend and draw conclusions.

Part 2 SPELLING

The Spelling test measures skill with a tool essential to written expression or communication. To some extent the test also reflects the background of educational achievement in at least one of the basic tools of learning.

Part 3 READING COMPREHENSION

The Reading Comprehension test measures ability to understand direct statements, to interpret passages, to grasp the intent of the authors, to observe organization of ideas, and to extract information from passages with respect to ideas and purposes . . . to read and to understand what is read.

Part 4 INFORMATION IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES

Measurement with this test concerns accumulation of information in the natural sciences, e.g., biology, chemistry, health and safety, etc., at an elementary level. The relationship of knowledge in the area of the natural sciences to the course of study of the student in the allied health professions is an obvious one.

Part 5 VOCATIONAL ADJUSTMENT INDEX

An individual's characteristic life style is reflected in his or her educational and occupational adjustment. Feelings, attitudes, personality characteristics, and behavioral traits, which may be quite acceptable in many situations, may not be those desirable for the prospective allied health professional as a student and as a practitioner.