

# PLACEMENT TEST INSTRUCTIONS

## What are placement tests?

**Placement tests are very important.** They are tests used to evaluate your skill levels in writing, reading and math and should be taken very seriously. These scores are used to help identify the best starting point for you in classes at Kalamazoo Valley. These tests are computer based, and require the use of a computer mouse and some keyboarding skills.

## How long will the placement tests take to complete?

If you are taking all three parts of the placement tests (writing, reading and math), it should take you between two and three hours. You can choose to start in either math or writing. You do not need to complete all three tests in one sitting.

## Who should take the placement tests?

Students attending college for the first time must have placement scores on file with Kalamazoo Valley. Transfer students who have not successfully completed a college level English and/or math courses also must have scores on file. These scores can include recent SAT scores from your high school, or Accuplacer or ALEKS scores that are taken in the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Testing Centers.

Test scores over two years old may not be representative of your current skills. Students are advised to retake placement tests that are not current. If students are using scores that place them into developmental courses, they should retest.

Transfer students who have already successfully completed a college level English and/or math course with a grade of 2.0/C can send the college transcript from their previous institution to the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Admissions, Registration, and Records Office in place of placement test scores.

## Why should I take a placement test?

Kalamazoo Valley enforces a minimum skill level requirement for most classes. The minimum score required as a prerequisite for a class is listed in the course description in the college catalog. Your placement scores are used to determine which prerequisites you have met, and which courses you are eligible to attend. So when you take these tests, make sure to do your best.

## What should I do to prepare?

Before the test day you may want to familiarize yourself with the types of test questions and the format of the test. The information for Reading & Writing is available at [www.accuplacer.org](http://www.accuplacer.org) in the student portal.

Math help before taking your first ALEKS placement test is available at [www.mathhelp.com/aleks-math-test-prep/](http://www.mathhelp.com/aleks-math-test-prep/). After taking the first test, your individualized learning modules will be available at [www.aleks.com](http://www.aleks.com). The log-in will be the login name and password established by the student at the time of the first placement test. If you have forgotten, follow the prompts to retrieve these credentials.

## What is the content of the placement tests?

### Writing

For the writing section, you will revise and edit sentences from multiple paragraphs. Questions focus on your knowledge of grammar, sentence structure, and punctuation. This is currently the Accuplacer Next Generation Writing test.

**This is untimed.**

### Reading

For the reading section, you will read a variety of single and paired paragraphs. Questions focus on comprehension, drawing conclusions, vocabulary, and rhetoric. This is currently the Accuplacer Next Generation Reading Comprehension test.

**This is untimed.**

### Math

For the math section, you will solve mathematical problems. This part of the placement test adjusts the level of math based on the accuracy of your answers. If you continue to answer correctly, the level will increase. If you answer incorrectly, the level will decrease. This is currently the ALEKS test. The ALEKS test consists of 30 questions.

**This has a three hour time limit.**

### When should I take the placement tests?

You should take the tests on a day when you are well rested, have had a chance to prepare for the test, and when you have time to complete the tests without rushing. As a reminder, you do not need to complete all three tests in one sitting. You should take your placement tests well before classes start for the semester, so you have time to discuss your results with an advisor or counselor.

### After taking the placement tests, when can I use the scores to register for classes?

Scores become part of your academic record after one business day of testing. At this point, you should be able to register for classes.

Advisors and counselors can assist you in selecting classes. Call 269.488.4100 to schedule an appointment or register for a New Student Orientation .

### Can I retake the placement tests?

If you feel your scores do not represent your skill level, you can meet with an advisor or counselor. They may recommend that you refresh your skills through independent study before retesting or they may issue you a retest referral slip.

Writing and reading: students may retest only once per semester with a retest referral slip. Each time you retest, you will be presented with different sets of questions.

Math: student can retake the ALEKS test up to four times within six months of the first test. Individualized learning modules will open after the first test. These learning modules are customized to the student, based on their performance on the first test. After completing three hours or more of practice within the ALEKS platform, the next placement test will become available and the student can retest at one of the Testing Centers at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. That procedure can be repeated until all five placement tests are completed. No retest referral slip is required.

### Where should I take the placement tests?

You can take placements tests on a drop-in basis at our Texas Township Campus, Room 2210 (269.488.4235) and at Anna Whitten Hall, Room 211 (269.373.7836). Placement test should be started at least two hours prior to closing. Visit [www.kvcc.edu/testing](http://www.kvcc.edu/testing) for Testing Center hours.

### What should I bring with me on test day?

On the day you plan to take the placement test, you will need to bring the following to the Testing Center: your Valley ID number and a photo ID.

Scrap paper and pencils are provided. No calculator is needed; there is one built into the test.



Texas Township Campus, Room 2210  
269.488.4460  
testcenter@kvcc.edu  
Anna Whitten Hall, Room 211  
269.373.7836  
acctestingcenter@kvcc.edu