This is a placement test, rather than a test you either pass or fail. The English Placement Test determines which English class you are ready to take. Based on the skills you exhibit, you will be placed at college level (English 101) or in one of the classes below this level (English 099 or 098). Lab classes, like English 065 (Spelling Improvement), may also be recommended.

The English Placement Test consists of two parts: reading and writing. The placement portion is the COMPASS test which is not timed. You will read three to five selections and answer questions about each. Make sure to read all possible answers. The second portion of the test is a writing sample. You are given several topics to choose from and have up to 90 minutes to write at least a page, although, the better essays are usually 5-6 paragraphs.

In order to place in English 101, both your reading and writing scores need to be at least college level. For the writing, this means you present a thesis, develop it, and then conclude it. It is important to pay attention to spelling, sentence structure, vocabulary, and overall organization. However, don't try to tell your whole life story in one short essay. It's always better to narrow the focus and use description and examples to present details. In fact, using your own experiences is an effective device.

The test may be taken twice in a one year period. You should allow two hours to complete the English Placement Test. Appointments can be made for testing on other days or evenings in the English Lab (Room 1832) and can be arranged by calling 793.2359.
MATH PLACEMENT TESTS

Every school has its own unique order of presenting math topics. The math placement test at BBCC was developed by the Math Department to reflect the math curriculum. Your placement score helps determine which BBCC class best fits your current math skills. No matter what your math experience is, we have a class that will fit your skills. Starting out in the right class gives you the greatest chance to succeed.

The BBCC Math Placement Test assesses basic concepts, so no calculators are allowed. There is a fee for the exam. Please bring photo ID, your receipt, and your student ID number to the test.

Placement test dates and times are posted in each quarter’s class schedule and on the BBCC website. This brochure will give you an overview of the knowledge you must demonstrate to place in the different math classes at BBCC.

Test Retakes

If you feel that your math placement score does not reflect your abilities, you may retake the placement exam one time. Students are allowed to take the exam twice each year. In addition, when you successfully complete a math class, you have the option to take the test an additional time.

Calculators

Although calculators are not permitted on the placement exams, correct use of calculators is taught in appropriate math classes.

For MPC classes above 90:

Only the following Calculators may be used: TI 30Xa, TI 30XIIs, Casio FX 260, Casio FX 300. Any other calculator will not be permitted.

For MATH classes above 100:

Only the following Calculators may be used: TI-83, TI-84. Variations on these two calculators are permitted (plus, silver, etc), but no other calculator will be permitted.

For MPC classes above 90:

When your instructor requires a calculator, a scientific calculator that is not programmable and does not graph is required.

For MATH classes above 100:

The TI–83 Plus is required and is the only calculator that is discussed in class. Please meet with your instructor if you already have a graphing calculator and want to use it instead of the TI–83 Plus.

To place into MPC 090 PreAlgebra a student must be able to demonstrate competency in these skills: Add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers, fractions, and decimals.

To place in MPC 095 Elementary Algebra a student must be able to demonstrate competency in the preceding materials as well as ability to:

1. Use order of operations to perform basic arithmetic operations on signed number expressions containing absolute values and exponents.
2. Solve simple linear equations.
3. Evaluate mathematical expressions containing exponents using the order of operations.
4. Set up ratios and solve proportions.
5. Change among fraction, decimal, and percent form of a number.
6. Solve percent problems.
7. Find the mean, median and mode of a group of numbers.
8. Do conversions of length, volume, area, time and temperature using American and metric units.
9. Find the area, volume or perimeter of common geometric shapes.
10. Simplify an algebraic expression by combining like terms and/or using distributive property.

To place in MPC 099 Intermediate Algebra a student must be able to demonstrate competency in the preceding materials as well as ability to:

1. Use the laws of exponents to simplify integer exponential expressions
2. Perform arithmetic operations on polynomials, including long division
3. Solve linear and literal equations and linear inequalities
4. Solve variation and proportion problems
5. Set up and solve linear story problems
6. Find slope and intercepts of a linear equation and graph linear equations
7. Find the slope of a line and graph
8. Factor polynomials and equations, factor sum and difference of cubes
9. Perform basic arithmetic operations on rational polynomial expressions
10. Evaluate a function

To place in MATH& 107, MATH 120, MATH & 146 or MATH 147 a student must be able to demonstrate competency in the preceding materials as well as ability to:

1. Perform basic arithmetic operations on functions.
2. Simplify composite functions
3. Solve a system of linear equations in 2 & 3 variables
4. Solve word problems using a system of linear equations
5. Perform basic arithmetic operations on expressions containing radicals or imaginary numbers
6. Solve quadratic equations, equations containing radicals and rational equations and equations with rational exponents
7. Solve word problems with quadratic equations
8. Simplify exponential and logarithmic expressions and solve elementary equations
9. Graph quadratic functions
10. Simplify complex fractions containing terms
11. Solve right triangles using sine, cosine, and tangent functions