

## WEBSITES FOR PRACTICE

You do not need to study for assessments, but you may want to familiarize yourself with Accuplacer's format and review the subject areas you'll take. You'll find links to several websites for practice in the "CCV 101" section of the Student Portal (<https://blackboard.vsc.edu> - look for the section on Assessments and Pre-College Classes).

Here are two good websites to start with:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/accuplacer/index.html>

<http://www.monroecc.edu/depts/counsel/Accuplac.htm>

## TAKING ACCUPLACER ASSESSMENTS

Accuplacer uses computerized adaptive testing techniques, which adjust to the student's level of ability and ensures that tests are unique to each student. Each segment will include 15 - 20 questions. Here are some tips to help you do your best:

- *Take your time.* Plan on 1.5 - 3 hours to complete all of your assessments. You can take all four in one day, or do them one at a time when it's convenient for you.
- *Guessing:* If you do not know the answer to a question, try to eliminate one or more of the choices. Then pick one of the remaining choices. You must answer every question while it is still on the screen and before you confirm your answer. You cannot skip an answer or return later to the question.
- *Academic Honesty:* You cannot bring textbooks, notebooks, dictionaries, calculators or any other papers (except scratch paper provided by the test administrator) into the testing area. CCV expects all those taking assessments to maintain the highest level of academic honesty.

## RETAKING ASSESSMENTS

If you feel that your score does not accurately reflect your skills, you may request permission to try again. See your advisor for more details.

*If you require accommodation in taking the basic skills assessment, you must inform a coordinator of academic services of your needs so that CCV can provide reasonable accommodation.*

## WHAT DO MY SCORES MEAN?

After completing your assessments, you will want to speak with an advisor, who will explain the scores to you.

*Please note: the raw scores are not on a 100% scale!*

### ENGLISH PLACEMENT

**If your COMBINED reading & sentence skills scores total:**

**180 or more.** . . . Take English Composition within your first two semesters at CCV. Now required for all degree plans, English Comp. is also a prerequisite for many college-level courses, especially those that involve research papers.

**170 or more.** . . . Dimensions of Learning (CCV's first-year seminar) is recommended for students who want to reinforce their reading, writing, critical thinking and class participation skills. You may also take many college-level courses.

**169 or below.** . . . Meet with an advisor to talk about an appropriate starting place, which might include basic skills courses such as Foundations of Reading & Writing,\* Basic Reading,\* Basic Writing,\* and/or ESL.\*

### MATH PLACEMENT

Every degree student must demonstrate basic arithmetic and algebra skills before enrolling in college-level math and other courses (e.g. science). To earn an associate degree, you will need to complete a college-level math class.

**If your Arithmetic score is \_\_\_\_\_, then take:**

**66 or more** .....Basic Algebra\*

**65 or less** .....Basic Math\*

**If your Elementary Algebra score is \_\_\_\_\_ and Arithmetic score is 66 or higher, then take:**

**58 or more** .....College Algebra, Technical Math I, Finite Math, Math Complexity Theory, Statistics

**42 or more** .....Mathematical Concepts, Intermediate Algebra\*\*

**41 or less** .....Basic Algebra\*

\* These basic skills courses are meant to prepare students for college-level work. Credit earned at this level will NOT apply to a degree.

\*\* Intermediate Algebra is for those planning to take science and upper level math courses. It does not meet the math requirement for degree students, however it does meet the fourth Math, Science & Technical Applications requirement.

# BASIC SKILLS ASSESSMENTS

## A Guide to Getting Started at CCV



# CCV

COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
OF VERMONT

[www.ccv.edu](http://www.ccv.edu)

## ASSESSMENTS AT CCV



CCV, like many colleges across the U.S., uses the College Board's Accuplacer assessments. These assessments are administered individually to students, free of charge and at your own pace on a computer. (No computer experience is needed.) Four untimed assessment sections are taken, covering reading comprehension, sentence skills, arithmetic, and elementary algebra.

CCV uses assessments to provide information about your level of skill in reading comprehension, writing, and mathematics. These scores assist you and your advisor in making appropriate decisions about the courses you're ready to take.

CCV is an open admissions college, but we do not have open enrollment. Course choices may be limited, according to assessment scores, and we cannot guarantee that pre-college students will be able to enroll full-time. Many students need multiple semesters of basic skills work before they're college-ready.

You will need to demonstrate competence in all four basic skills areas by the time you have earned 24 credits.

Your assessment scores and the information you provide when taking the tests will be used by CCV solely for placement and advising purposes. The data may also be used by the College and The College Board and/or Educational Testing Service for research purposes.

## WHO MUST TAKE THE SKILLS ASSESSMENTS?

CCV requires all new students to take the skills assessment, unless you provide documentation that:

- You have earned a college degree;
- You are enrolling in a course which has no basic skills prerequisite; or
- You can provide satisfactory evidence of competence in the basic skills area (see an advisor).

## SAMPLE ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

### READING COMPREHENSION

This assessment is designed to measure how well you are able to understand what you read. One type of question consists of a reading passage followed by a question based on the text. A second type of question is about sentence relationships in which you choose how two sentences are related.

#### Sample Question

Read the passage and choose the best answer to the question. Answer on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage.

*Myths are stories, the products of fertile imagination, sometimes simple, often containing profound truths. They are not meant to be taken literally. Details may sometimes appear childish, but most myths express a culture's most serious beliefs about human beings, eternity, and God.*

The main idea of this passage is that myths:

- (A) are created primarily to entertain young children.
- (B) are purposely written for the reader who lacks imagination.
- (C) provide the reader with a means of escape from reality.
- (D) illustrate the values that are considered important to society.

### SENTENCE SKILLS

Two kinds of questions are given in this assessment. Sentence correction questions ask you to choose a word or phrase to substitute for an underlined portion of a sentence. Construction shift questions ask that a sentence be rewritten in a specific way without changing the meaning.

#### Sample Question

Select the best version of the underlined part of the sentence. The first choice is the same as the original sentence. If you think the original sentence is best, choose the first answer.

Ms. Rose planning to teach a course in biology next semester.

- (A) planning      (B) are planning
- (C) with a plan    (D) plans

### ARITHMETIC SKILLS

Arithmetic skills assessment measures your ability in three primary areas. The first is operations with whole numbers and fractions, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, recognizing equivalent fractions and mixed numbers, and estimating. The second category involves operations with decimals and percents, including addition, multiplication and division, as well as percent problems, decimal recognition, and fraction and percent equivalencies. The last category involves applications and problem solving. Questions include rate, percent, and measurement problems; geometry problems; and distribution of a quantity into its fractional parts. For some questions, you will see a pop-up calculator for your use.

#### Sample Question

Solve the following problem, and choose your answer from the alternatives given.

All of the following are ways to write 20 percent of N, except:

- (A)  $0.20 N$       (B)  $20/100 N$
- (C)  $1/5 N$         (D)  $20 N$

### ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA

There are three categories in this assessment. First, operations with integers and rational numbers includes addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of positive and negative numbers; use of exponents; use of absolute value; and ordering. The second category is operations with algebraic expressions testing your ability to evaluate formulas and expressions; to add, subtract, multiply, divide, and factor polynomials; to calculate rational roots; and to simplify algebraic fractions. The third category assesses skills in solving equations, word problems, and inequalities, including solving systems of linear equations, solving quadratic equations by factoring, solving verbal problems, geometric reasoning, translating written phrases into algebraic expressions, and graphing.

#### Sample Question:

- $16x - 8 =$
- (A)  $8x$                       (B)  $8(2x - x)$
  - (C)  $8(2x - 1)$               (D)  $8(2x - 8)$

#### Answers to Sample Questions:

Reading: D  
Sentence Skill: D  
Arithmetic: D  
Elementary Algebra: C