



OAKLAND  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE

**COMPASS STEERING COMMITTEE  
AGENDA**

April 9, 2004  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
District Office – Helen S. Kaiser Room

- I. ESL COMPASS Correlation Analysis Review
- II. Assessment and Placement Edit
- III. Other Business

- COMPASS English Placement

*- lowest level students placing higher... need min bottom scores (< 37 = no placement)*

*Propose - min. cut off score = 20 on both tests*

# Student Academic Regulations

## Academic Placement

---

### Academic Placement Statement

Community colleges enroll a highly diverse student population that brings a broad range of skill levels to its studies.

This variety in student skill levels dictates a need for appropriate entry-level evaluation, academic advisement and course placement in order to increase the probability of student success.

A comprehensive entry-level evaluation and placement program is one component in a total program to provide educational opportunities for the ultimate achievement of both student and institutional goals.

Entry-level evaluation and placement is a systematic process intended to identify student abilities and needs. Data garnered through evaluation enables College staff to assist students in appropriate decision making, determine which educational interventions are most likely to ensure student success and assist College policy makers in decision making.

### COMPASS

#### (COMputer-adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System)

---

Oakland Community College offers computer-based placement testing for English and Mathematics. COMPASS testing is only one component in a comprehensive new student orientation program designed to also provide appropriate academic advisement and course placement. This will help to ensure that entry-level OCC students will have maximum opportunities to achieve their educational goals and to allow the institution to best identify student

*Academic Placement Statement*

abilities, interests, and needs. New student orientation sessions are presented regularly throughout each semester.

Student information and answers will be entered electronically, although some math computation may be done with a pencil and paper. Students begin by entering identification information and then work through a practice COMPASS section. Both tests are untimed.

College guest students who are applying to OCC using the Michigan Uniform Undergraduate Guest Application form are exempt from English and Mathematics COMPASS testing. Note: High school guest students are not exempt.

Disabled or disadvantaged students should consult their campus PASS (Programs for Academic Support Services) office for assistance with the scheduling and administration of tests. ESL students should contact an ESL advisor or counselor regarding their placement testing requirements prior to taking the COMPASS test.

Students with questions about evaluation or placement should consult their campus counseling office.

## **COMPASS English Placement**

---

Initial English course placement is determined by the student's COMPASS placement score. This score is a combination of scores obtained from two separate tests covering writing skills and reading. The two sections of the COMPASS English test must be taken together. For additional English evaluation or placement information, see the current Schedule of Classes or speak with a counselor.

## **COMPASS Math Placement**

---

OCC has adopted the COMPASS math placement test to help students identify appropriate math courses.

While proper placement in a math course is critical, it cannot in itself guarantee success. Success in mathematics requires active participation in the learning process and is significantly affected by many factors, including attendance, the amount and quality of time spent studying, doing homework, and preparing for tests and other assigned activities.

The COMPASS math test may be taken as part of a new student orientation process or by contacting any OCC campus Individual Instruction Center (IIC) to arrange for individual testing.

Unless specifically exempted, all students must complete math placement testing before registering in a math class. For additional math evaluation or placement information, see the current Schedule of Classes or speak with a counselor.

### **MTELP (Michigan Test of English Language Proficiency)**

---

If English is not your primary language or if you grew up speaking English and another language, the MTELP is a more accurate placement instrument for college classes. Instead of taking COMPASS, you are required to participate in the MTELP evaluation unless you meet one of the following criteria:

1. Students who have completed 24 semester credits at another U.S. institution, including courses equivalent to ENG 1510,
2. Students who have earned an associate degree or higher, or equivalent from a U.S. institution,
3. Students admitted under a guest application from another college where they are enrolled in college-level courses. Guest applications must be renewed

each semester of enrollment, (High school guest students are not exempt.)

4. Students who have been given a temporary exemption by their counselor during their first semester of attendance must participate in the MTEP evaluation prior to their next registration.

## ASSESSMENT AND PLACEMENT – General Information

OCC placement tests are administered to all new students who plan to enroll in credit classes, except those exempted (see below). These tests are one way of measuring students' skills in English or ESL and mathematics. Counselors will use these results along with other information to help you make your educational plans. If English is your native language, you will be taking **COMPASS** (COMputer-adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System). If English is **NOT** your native language, you will be taking **MTELP** (Michigan Test of English Language Proficiency).

Placement **Tests** in **ENGLISH or ESL (English as a Second Language) and MATH** are given regularly during the months before registration. The placement results will help you and your OCC counselor select appropriate English or ESL and math courses.

You **MAY** be exempt from these placement tests under certain conditions. Please refer to the following information to determine whether this applies to you. If you qualify for exemption under any of these conditions, please submit copies of the appropriate documentation with your application to your campus Enrollment Services Department.

Disabled or disadvantaged students should consult the campus Programs for Academic Support Services (PASS) office for assistance with the scheduling and administration of assessments.

### Placement in ENGLISH (COMPASS-COMputer-adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System)

All new students whose native language is English must take COMPASS. Students registering for fewer than 13 credits in a 15-week semester (fewer than 7 credits in an 8-week session) who are not taking English or math courses may register without an assessment **BUT YOU MUST TAKE THE ASSESSMENT PRIOR TO REGISTERING FOR A SECOND SEMESTER.**

You may be exempted from taking the COMPASS English test if you meet any one of the following conditions:

- You have documentation of an Advanced English Placement score of 3 or higher
- You have documentation of a CLEP score in Composition that is the equivalent of ENG 1510
- You have documentation of ACT scores showing <sup>20</sup>24 or higher on the English subtest
- You have documentation of an SAT <sup>verbal</sup> composite score of <sup>450</sup>950 or higher
- You have a transcript showing achievement of a grade of "C" or higher in an equivalent college-level composition course
- You have evidence of an English **COMPASS** SCORE (combined Writing Skills and Reading) within the previous two years

- You have been admitted to OCC as a college guest student with a **College Guest Application** (NOTE: guest applications must be renewed each semester of enrollment; also note High School Guests are NOT exempt).
- You have earned an associate degree or higher from an accredited US college or university

### **Placement in ESL (MTELP)**

All new students for whom English is a second language must take **MTELP**. Students registering for fewer than 13 credits in a 15-week semester (fewer than 7 credits in an 8-week session) who are not taking English or math courses may register without an assessment **BUT YOU MUST TAKE THE ASSESSMENT PRIOR TO REGISTERING FOR A SECOND SEMESTER.**

You **MAY BE** exempted from this testing if you meet any one of the following conditions:

- You have evidence of completing 24 semester credits at another United States college or university, including a course equivalent to ENG 1510
- You have evidence of completing an associate degree or higher from an accredited US college or university
- You have been admitted to OCC under a **College Guest Application** from another college where they are enrolled in college level courses (NOTE: guest applications must be renewed each semester of enrollment)

### **Placement in MATH (COMPASS)**

In order to register for a math course, students must be placed into the appropriate level. The COMPASS Math Placement will identify for you the appropriate entry-level math course. You may take math classes at or below the course level indicated by your score. You may take this assessment as part of your initial placement testing or by contacting any OCC campus Individualized Instruction Center (IIC) but you **MUST** have a math placement prior to registering for a math course.

Students who disagree with their initial math placement may repeat the COMPASS Math Placement assessment a total of two times within two years. Those students who still disagree with their results after taking a COMPASS Math Placement assessment after a second time should contact an OCC counselor. Students who are still not satisfied may appeal their math placement. The appeal process can be accessed through the OCC website at **[oaklandcc.edu/mathematics](http://oaklandcc.edu/mathematics)**.

You may be exempt from the COMPASS Math Placement if you meet any one of the following conditions:

- You have earned a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited US college or university
- You are admitted to OCC under a **College Guest Application** from another college or university

- You have evidence of passing with a "C" or better the prerequisite math course at OCC or the equivalent course at another within the past three years
- You have earned a score of 3 or higher on the Advanced Placement Exam in Calculus AB or BC
- You have documentation of a COMPASS Math Placement score taken elsewhere within the past two years

### **Scheduling an Assessment**

Please call your home campus Individualized Instruction Center (IIC) to schedule an appointment and for further information (information is also available on the campus IIC website through the College's home page at **[oaklandcc.edu](http://oaklandcc.edu)**). Your Application for Admissions must be submitted prior to scheduling your assessment. You should plan to arrive 10 minutes prior to the start of the session and be prepared to present a valid picture ID.

Campus	Room	Phone number
<b>Auburn Hills</b>	<b>B-110</b>	<b>248.232.4436</b>
<b>Highland Lakes</b>	<b>WH-20</b>	<b>248.942.3049</b>
<b>Orchard Ridge</b>	<b>K-100</b>	<b>248.522.3435</b>
<b>Royal Oak</b>	<b>C-104</b>	<b>248.246.2435</b>
<b>Southfield</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>248.233.2735</b>