



# Los Angeles Valley College

- What is the assessment?
- What is the purpose of assessing in English and math?
- What assessment tool to we use?
- What placement tests do we offer?
- Why should we encourage students to prepare before taking the assessment?
- What is the assessment process at Valley?
- Frequently asked questions.

## **ASSESSMENT CENTER**

# What is the assessment?

- It is not this.



# Assessment is often misunderstood...

- It is a word that connotes “tests”, raising anxiety in students.
- The assessment is not a pass/fail test. It is a tool used for evaluating the educational skill levels of students and assisting students in their selection of courses that lead to achieving their educational goals.

What assessment tool do we use?



ACCUPLACER

# The Assessment Center administers the College Board's ACCUPLACER.

## What placements in English do we offer?

- English as a Native Language (ENL).
  - Students who are native English speaker or attended junior and senior high school in the United States, are strongly recommend that to take the English Assessment. This test is best suited to assess their skills.
- English as a Second Language (ESL).
  - The ESL test has been designed for English learner students coming from other countries who did not complete high school in the U.S.

## What is the purpose of the English assessment?

- The purpose of the English assessment is to assess students' reading and writing skills. Results will inform them if they are ready to undertake college-level work or if they need to further develop their skills. Based on their results, students will be placed into a level of English appropriate to their skill level.

# What skills are assessed in the ACCUPLACER English/ESL test?

## English as a Native Language

- **Sentence Skills**
- There are 20 Sentence Skills questions of two types.
- The first type is **sentence correction** questions that require an understanding of sentence structure..
- The second type is **construction shift** questions. These questions ask that a sentence be rewritten according to the criteria shown while maintaining essentially the same meaning as the original sentence.
- **Reading Comprehension**
- There are 20 questions of two primary types on the Reading Comprehension test.
- The first type consists of a reading passage followed by a question based on the text.
- The second type of question, sentence relationships, presents two sentences followed by a question about the relationship between these two sentences.
- The English assessment is untimed and takes approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour to complete.

## English as a Second Language

- **ACCUPLACER ESL Reading Skills**
- The Reading Skills test evaluates comprehension of short passages. There are 20 questions to this test.
- **ACCUPLACER ESL Language Use**
- The Language Use test measures grammar and usage. There are 20 questions to this test.
- **ACCUPLACER ESL Sentence Meaning**
- Sentence Meaning assesses the understanding of word meanings in one or two-sentence contexts. There are 20 questions to this test.
- The ESL assessment is untimed and takes approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour to complete.

# Course placement for ENL/ESL

## **English as a Native Language**

- English 101
- English 28
- English 21
- English 33

## **English as a Second Language**

- English 363
- English 362
- English 361
- English 83
- English 82
- English 80

# What is the purpose of the math assessment?

- The purpose of math assessment is to recommend a math class that is neither too difficult nor too easy for students. The Math Department is particularly concerned that students do not waste a semester by selecting a class that exceeds their preparation.

# What skills are assessed in the ACCUPLACER math test?

- The math assessment is an adaptive test:
  - The tests automatically choose questions based how the student is doing. Getting harder items while testing usually means they are doing well.
- The mathematics assessment is taken on a computer and is untimed. It takes approximately one hour to complete. Math testing may include up to three separate tests: Arithmetic, Elementary Algebra, and College-Level Math. Calculators are not permitted.

# Math assessment breakdown

The Arithmetic test, comprised of 17 questions, measures students ability to perform basic arithmetic operations and to solve problems that involve fundamental arithmetic concepts. There are three types of Arithmetic questions:

- **Operations with whole numbers and fractions:** topics included in this category are addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, recognizing equivalent fractions and mixed numbers, and estimating.
- **Operations with decimals and percentages:** topics include addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with decimals. Percent problems, recognition of decimals, fraction and percent equivalencies, and problems involving estimation are also given.
- **Applications and problem solving:** topics include rate, percent, and measurement problems, simple geometry problems, and distribution of a quantity into its fractional parts.

The Elementary Algebra test, comprised of 12 questions, measures students ability to perform basic algebraic operations and to solve problems involving elementary algebraic concepts. There are three types of Elementary Algebra questions:

- **Operations with integers and rational numbers:** topics include computation with integers and negative rationals, the use of absolute values, and ordering.
- **Operations with algebraic expressions:** topics include the evaluation of simple formulas and expressions, adding and subtracting monomials and polynomials, multiplying and dividing monomials and polynomials, the evaluation of positive rational roots and exponents, simplifying algebraic fractions, and factoring.
- **Solution of equations, inequalities, word problems:** topics include solving linear equations and inequalities, solving quadratic equations by factoring, solving verbal problems presented in an algebraic context, including geometric reasoning and graphing, and the translation of written phrases into algebraic expressions.

# Math assessment breakdown...

The College-Level Math test, comprised of 20 questions, measures students ability to solve problems that involve college-level mathematics concepts. There are five types of College-Level Math questions:

- **Algebraic operations:** topics include simplifying rational algebraic expressions, factoring, expanding polynomials, and manipulating roots and exponents.
- **Solutions of equations and inequalities:** topics include the solution of linear and quadratic equations and inequalities, equation systems and other algebraic equations.
- **Coordinate geometry:** topics include plane geometry, the coordinate plane, straight lines, conics, sets of points in the plane, and graphs of algebraic functions.
- **Applications and other algebra topics:** topics include complex numbers, series and sequences, determinants, permutations and combinations, fractions and word problems.
- **Functions and trigonometry:** topics include polynomials, algebraic, exponential, and logarithmic and trigonometric functions.

# Course placement for math

Students can place in one of three math levels:

- **Arithmetic:** Math 110/Math 112/Math 113
- **Elementary Algebra:** Math 113/ Math 115/  
Math 120 & Math 125
- **College Level Math:** Math 215/ Math 225/  
Math 245/ Math 240/Math 259/Math 238/  
Math 260 and Math 265

# **Tell students to take the assessment seriously.**

- The assessment in English and math should be taken seriously. It will determine how long students will actually stay in school before earning a certificate and/or transferring. Have them to watch our videos before assessing at:  
[www.lavc.edu/assessment](http://www.lavc.edu/assessment)

# Prepping before Assessing

## **Why encourage students to prep before testing?**

- They Boost their chance at placing into college-level courses.
- Their placement determines which math and English/ESL course they will start with; and how many math and English/ESL courses they will need to take: 1 to 6 courses!
- They save money, time and frustration!

# Will prepping make a difference?

- Yes! Preparing for the placement tests increases their chances to place into college level English and math or at least shorten their basic skills sequence.
- Preparing may also help with test anxiety and give them more confidence.

# How can students prep before assessing?

The Assessment Center has study guide links on the website.

- [www.lavc.edu/assessment](http://www.lavc.edu/assessment)

# What is the assessment process at Valley?

## **STEP 1:**

- Students planning to assess in English and math at Valley, must apply to Valley prior to assessing (this includes students who have applied to other colleges in the LACCD). No Valley app. No assessment.

## **STEP 2:**

- Once students have receive confirmation that their application has been processed and have been issued a student ID (88#) by email , they may make an appointment to assess.
  - Appointments must be made 24 hours in advance.
  - The English and math assessments are only offered on the computer in the Assessment Center or at SSD for special accommodations.
  - Students must bring a VALID picture ID to assess. No Exceptions.
  - Children are not permitted to sit with the parent during the assessment.
  - Students may stop and save your assessment at any time and have 2 weeks to return and continue.
  - Cell phones, calculators and other study guides are not allowed during the assessment. Students will be asked to put them in a locker.

# What is the assessment process at Valley?

## **STEP 3:**

- Results are available immediately after students complete their assessment.

## **STEP 4:**

- After students get their results we will schedule a 1<sup>st</sup> semester planning session with a counselor.

# Re-Test Policy

Los Angeles Valley College enforces the following policies regarding retesting:

- ***Students may not repeat the assessment for a 1-year period.*** Please make sure you enroll in the English and mathematics course you placed in. If you do not feel well or have, other reasons that would prevent you from doing your best on the day of your assessment reschedule your appointment.
- ***Once you begin taking the English, ESL and/or mathematics courses you placed in anywhere within LACCD, re-testing will not be permitted.*** A challenge process exists for students already enrolled in courses who provide evidence that they meet the prerequisites of a course higher than their current placement or enrollment level.

# Off-campus Testing

- The Assessment Center coordinates with Student Outreach and Recruitment/ACE all testing for high school students at our local high schools.

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- **Who needs to assess?**
  - All non-exempt students should go through the OAC process. Orientation, Assessment and Counseling.
  - Non-exempt students are new students to the college or District.
  - New students seeking to...
    - Transfer to a four-year institution
    - Earn a degree or certificate
    - Register for more than 6 units
    - Enroll in a course that has a math or English prerequisite

# FAQ cont'd...

- **Who is exempt from the Assessment test?**
  - **Exemptions from the Assessment Process are available to students who have completed:**
    - An Associate Degree or higher
    - Less than 15 units of College courses for purposes Personal Development
    - The appropriate pre-requisite course with a grade of “C” or better as documented on an Official Transcript.
    - An Assessment test placement results from any college from Los Angeles Community College District

# FAQ cont'd...

- **How can I view my placement results online?**
  - Students may view their placement results online in the student information system at:
  - <https://eweb1.laccd.edu/WebStudent/signon.asp>
- **Can I send my placement/test results to another college or university?**
- The Assessment Center issues Los Angeles Valley College placement scores only. Students must complete a [Placement Result Request and Release Form](#) ( print it, fill it out ,sign it, and send it), email it to [sancher@lavc.edu](mailto:sancher@lavc.edu), or fax it to 818-947-7282

# FAQ cont'd...

- **Do placement results expire?**
  - No. There is no District expiration on placement results taken within the District.
- **Do you accept placements from other colleges or universities?**
  - **Yes. Unless...**
    - The results are over 2 years old students. If they are, students must re-test at Valley.
    - Out-of-State placements must be reviewed by a counselor.
    - All placements from other colleges must be submitted to Pre-requisites in Admissions and Records.

# FAQ cont'd...

- **Do I have to pay for the Assessment Test?**
  - Assessment Services are free to students.
- **Do you offer proctoring services from other colleges/universities?**
  - No. We do not offer outside proctoring services.
- **Where are you located?**
  - The Assessment Center is located on the second floor of the Student Services Center room 242.

# FAQ cont'd...

- **Do I need to make an appointment?**
  - The Assessment Center only offers tests on an appointment basis. All appointments must be made 24 hours in advance.
  - This is in an effort to ensure students review our study guides prior to testing.
- **How do I make an appointment?**
  - Please call 818.947-2587 or walk-in to make an in-person appt. Our online appointment system is TBA.

# Special Accommodations?

Accommodations for students with disabilities.

- The college staff provides appropriate assistance to students with special needs. (e.g. the hearing impaired may require interpreters and the visually impaired may need access to a print enlargement system).
- If students require accommodations due to a disability, please contact the Assessment Center for information concerning your needs our of Services for Students with Disabilities Office (SSD) at 818-947-2681.

# Other Services

- Math Competency Exam
  - The Los Angeles Community College District Math Competency Exam is for CONTINUING students who have been attending Valley College since prior to summer 2009. This exam is designed to meet the Math 115 graduation requirement for the Associates Degree. The Assessment Center offers this exam by appointment only. The Math Competency Exam may not be used to fulfill math prerequisites. Students who wish to enroll in higher-level math courses must take the math assessment. Students must score a 15 or better to pass. Students, who score below a 15, must enroll in Math 115. You may only test once. No retests are permitted.

# Other Services

- **Chemistry Readiness Exam**
  - Is not currently available.
- **Ability to Benefit**
  - Will be offered again in the near future for specific populations.