COMPASS

Frequently Asked Questions

What is COMPASS?

- The American College Testing Program's COMPASS Placement test was developed to help those entering college to succeed in their educational goals.
- COMPASS is a computer-adaptive course placement test that measures skills in Reading, English, and Mathematics.
- The main purpose of the skills assessment is to help identify your current strengths and needs so you may build a solid plan for success in the educational options you choose to pursue at SCC.
- Your scores will indicate where your strengths and challenges are in relation to college-level work for your chosen majors.

Do I need to take COMPASS?

- **Yes**, if you haven't taken the ACT or if your ACT scores are below 18 in English, 20 in Reading, 19 in Math.
- **No**, if your ACT score is 18 or higher in English, 20 or higher in reading, and 19 or higher in math.
- **No**, if credit has been earned in college-level courses in math, English and reading
- It is **recommended** that students who score a 19-21 on the ACT Math do take the COMPASS in Math to see if they can test out of the MAT 100 Lab course.

**Note: ACT scores, college transcripts, or grades are necessary for proof of exemption.

How much does it cost to take the COMPASS?

- Everyone must first complete and submit an admissions application to SCC before taking the COMPASS test, after you submit your application there will be no charge for the COMPASS test.
- If you do not submit an admissions application there will be a $20.00 testing fee.
- If you choose to re-test, there is a fee of $7.00 per section or $20.00 for the complete re-test.

Should I review before taking COMPASS?

Yes. COMPASS will assess your current strengths and needs, but it is important to be familiar with the type of questions that will be asked. These sites online may be helpful:

- http://www.act.org/compass/sample/index.html
- Videos for COMPASS Math Sample Questions: http://www.youtube.com/user/SomersetComCol#g/
- https://web.gsc.edu/fs/mhorton/LsEnglish/#
- http://www.testprepreview.com/compass_practice.htm
- http://www.math.com

****Inform Proctor if you do not have a GED and not enrolled in High School.****

What should I bring to the COMPASS session?

- Photo ID
- Calculator—there is a calculator provided. Prohibited calculators-CFX9970G, TI-89, TI-92

If I am not satisfied with my scores, may I retake the COMPASS?

- COMPASS is not a pass-fail test.
- A re-test on the COMPASS is not normally recommended.
- COMPASS cannot be repeated more than one (1) time in a 30 day period.
- We highly recommend that before you consider retesting, you take the recommended coursework or complete a remediation program.

How do I sign-up for a COMPASS test?

- The COMPASS test is administered on a walk-in basis, with first-come, first-served availability Monday through Friday between 8:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Somerset and Laurel campuses.
- Please call the Somerset testing center at 606-451-6850 or the Laurel testing center at 606-878-4728 in advance to be sure the center will be open the day you plan to test.
- Students can get free study assistance through the IMPACT program by contacting the local Adult Education Center (ABE) in their county of residence.
- You can schedule the COMPASS at the following locations **by appointment only**:
  - SCC Clinton Center (606)387-3704
  - SCC Casey Center (606)787-4732
  - SCC Russell Center (606)858-6509
  - SCC McCreary Center (606)376-7506
  - Lincoln Co. ABE (606)365-9665
  - Rockcastle Co. ABE (606)256-0218
  - Wayne Co. ABE (606)348-5286
  - Cumberland Co. ABE (270)864-1262

How soon will I know the results of my COMPASS assessment?

- The COMPASS will automatically print your results when you have completed the test.
- You will be given a copy of your results. Your scores will be available to your advisor when you meet with them during your advising session.
- It is helpful to take your copy of the COMPASS results with you when you meet with your advisor.