

Upon successful completion of ENG 050, students must then complete ENG 106: Writing Intensive First Year Seminar, the required composition course for graduation. It is recommended that students schedule ENG 106 the next immediate semester after passing ENG 050. More advanced writers and those students whose writing SAT writing is 650 or above will be advised to enroll in ENG 110: Advanced Placement Writing.

### Mathematics Placement Test

Math placement testing is completed using Accuplacer, an online, untimed test created by College Board. Test scores are provided immediately after completion of the test and can fall into one of six categories. Students who test into Level 1 (and some who test into Level 2) are required to pass a developmental math course and earn a grade of "C" or higher before they can take a college level math course. Different majors will have different math requirements. Someone from our office will discuss your results before you leave and you may also visit the testing website for additional information.

This test consists of a variety of items ranging from solving problems in context to algebra, geometry, and trigonometry. The majority of test items include content normally encountered by students in the typical high school college-preparatory mathematics curriculum.

**We strongly recommend that you review the information below, as well as the information on the placement testing website in preparation for the math placement test. It is recommended that you spend at least 5 hours of review before testing.**

Elementary Algebra includes:

1. Operations with integers and rational numbers including computation with integers and negative rationals, use of absolute values, and ordering.
2. Operations with algebraic expressions including the evaluation of simple formulas and expressions and in adding and subtracting monomials and polynomials. Both of these categories include questions about multiplying and dividing monomials and polynomials, the evaluation of positive rational roots and exponents, simplifying algebraic fractions, and factoring.

3. Equation solving, inequalities and word problems include solving systems of linear equations, the solution of quadratic equations by factoring, solving verbal problems presented in algebraic context, geometric reasoning, translation of written phrases into algebraic expressions, and graphing.

College-Level Mathematics includes:

1. Algebraic operations include simplifying rational algebraic expressions, factoring and expanding polynomials, and manipulating roots and exponents.
2. Solutions of equations and inequalities include solving quadratic and linear equations and inequalities, equation systems, and other algebraic equations.
3. Coordinate geometry includes questions about plane geometry, the coordinate plane, straight lines, conics, sets of points in the plane, and graphs of algebraic functions.
4. Applications and other algebra topics asks about complex numbers in a series and sequences, determinants, permutations and combinations, fractions, and word problems.
5. Functions and trigonometry offers questions about polynomial, algebraic, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions.

### Developmental Reading Placement Challenge Test

The Nelson Denny Reading Test is composed of two sub-tests, Vocabulary and Comprehension. The Vocabulary section of the test consists of 80 items and has a time limit of 15 minutes. The Comprehension section contains reading passages and 38 questions to be completed in 20 minutes.

Please see our website under *Testing Overview* for further information.

Keep this brochure and record your appointment date, time and testing site for your reference.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_



Visit our website for more information at:  
[www.ship.edu/testing](http://www.ship.edu/testing)



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School of Academic Programs & Services  
Placement Testing Office

Shippensburg University  
1871 Old Main Drive  
Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299  
717-477-1395  
[www.ship.edu](http://www.ship.edu)

Shippensburg University is an equal opportunity educational institution. Direct requests for disability accommodations and other inquiries to the Office of Disability Services, Horton Hall 120, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299, 717-477-1329, [ods@ship.edu](mailto:ods@ship.edu).



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# Placement Testing



# Placement Testing at Shippensburg University

## The Purpose of Placement Testing

Our General Education Program requires our students take various courses to develop certain skills and competencies. The mission of Placement Testing is to determine whether or not students are adequately prepared to succeed in these courses. We determine level of proficiency by testing Math and Writing (English). Your success is our ultimate goal!

**Math:** Your test results will determine your eligibility to enroll in college-level math courses. Continue reading for further information.

**English (writing):** The English composition program is designed to provide students with sufficient writing skills to fulfill undergraduate writing requirements. Read on for more detailed information.

## Determining Placement Testing Requirements: Registration for Placement Testing & Orientation

Students who have confirmed their admission to Shippensburg University will receive a letter from the Placement Testing Office with information regarding placement testing. Students will also receive this brochure which includes instructions for accessing placement testing requirements. Below are the necessary steps to determine your placement testing requirements and registrations instructions for testing and orientation.

**Not all students are required to complete placement testing. In order to determine your placement testing requirements, you must complete the follow steps:**

- Go to [www.ship.edu/testing](http://www.ship.edu/testing) and click on REGISTER FOR PLACEMENT TESTING (left hand side of the page)
- Click Register@Ship and log into the Admission Portal using your SU ID # as your Login ID and your PIN which is your date of birth (listed with two digits for the month, two digits for the day, and two digits for the year without spaces or dashes).
- Click on the link for the Processed Application (Term, Year) and "Click Here" next to Placement Testing
- Provide the required Personal Information and Save & Continue to move on. Placement Testing Requirements will be available on the following page along with additional information. Please read all information carefully.

- If required to test, complete the online registration by selecting a testing date. You will be sent a confirmation email to your Ship email account which will include the location of your placement testing. You may also register for orientation at this time.
- If not required to test, no further action is necessary in regard to placement testing. Please register for orientation.

**There are also opportunities for optional testing:**

**Optional Math:** If your major requires calculus and you wish to begin a sequence of math requirements with a higher-level course, please visit the placement testing website for more information at [www.ship.edu/testing](http://www.ship.edu/testing).

*Whether it is worthwhile to voluntarily test in math or not depends upon the math requirements of your major. See our website for additional information regarding reasons for participating in optional math placement testing.*

**Optional Developmental Reading Placement Challenge Test:** Students are placed into Developmental Reading & Study Skills (RDG050) based on their Verbal SAT scores. If you would like to challenge your placement into RDG050, you can do so by registering to complete the Nelson Denny Reading Test. If you pass this test, you will no longer be required to complete RDG050. If you do not pass you will still be required to take RDG050 during your first semester. You may also fulfill your RDG050 requirement prior to beginning class in the fall. This test is only offered on Ship's campus.

*See our website for additional information regarding reasons for taking the reading challenge test and options for remediating prior to the start of the fall semester at [www.ship.edu/testing](http://www.ship.edu/testing).*

**Students required to complete any placement test MUST complete all testing requirements PRIOR TO ORIENTATION in order to register for classes on that day. It is in your best interest to complete your placement testing requirement ASAP.**

## Registration for Testing

When you log in to determine your placement testing requirements you can register for a testing date and time. After registering online you will receive a confirmation email (sent to your Ship email account) with the testing date, time, and location on campus. If you are interested in testing at an alternate testing site, you will not need to register online. Please read on for more information regarding testing at an alternate site.

## Alternate Testing Sites

Several colleges are participating as free alternate test sites. Some sites require a fee. A list of alternate sites, contact information, testing dates, and fees (if any) are available on the placement testing website under *Alternate Testing Sites*. Registration confirmation will not be sent if testing at an alternate site.

## Accommodations for Students with Special Needs

If you have a learning difference or if you need special testing accommodations, you should **contact the Office of Disability Services, Horton Hall 120, 717-477-1329**, as soon as possible. To be eligible for accommodations, you must file the appropriate documentation with the Office of Disability Services **before** testing.

## Testing Procedures

**Arrival:** Plan to arrive approximately 15 minutes prior to your testing time to sign in.

**What to Bring:** You must bring a **photo ID** and know your **Shippensburg University ID number**.

**Timing:** Tests are untimed. All tests are completed during one session.

**Test Materials:** We will provide all necessary testing materials. Calculators are not permitted. If needed, a 'pop-up' calculator will be available on the computer.

**Test Results:** You will receive your math results immediately after testing. Results will then be explained by Placement Testing Office staff. If further clarification is necessary, contact us for a more thorough explanation. For students taking the English (writing) placement test, only students who are placed into Basic Writing will be notified via email. Students can also contact the English department to verify test scores.

## Why Students MUST Prepare For Testing

Developmental courses do not count toward graduation therefore it is imperative that students review before testing. For the math test, review Algebra I & II material. Practice tests are available on the placement testing website. For the writing test, review grammar and be able to clearly articulate a well-constructed point. Visit our website for additional information and resources on how to best prepare for each test.

## Developmental Placements

We do not test in Reading. Placement into a Developmental Reading course is determined by your SAT scores.

If placing into any developmental course, see *Options Based on Placement* and *Reading Options* on our website for further information.

**Whenever possible, students are encouraged to remediate any developmental placement BEFORE beginning classes at Ship.** In order to successfully move on to the college level, students must earn a grade of "C" or higher or its equivalent. Those who earn below a "C" must repeat the course the next immediate semester.

Remember, **developmental courses do not count toward graduation.** However, these credits are included in determining a student's class standing, and the grades are computed in the students GPA.

Frequently, students who test into a developmental level do not sufficiently review prior to testing. Please access and review all possible resources available through the Placement Testing website.

## Descriptions of the Tests

### English Placement Essay

Students required to test will write an essay on a topic in which you have some general knowledge. Testing is completed using Desire to Learn (D2L). Students will need to have activated their Ship email address in order to log into D2L. Although this test is completed online, it must be done so in a proctored environment. The English (writing) test is untimed.

Faculty members from the English Department will review your essay. They will evaluate your ability to understand and respond to the assignment, to write a coherent and reasonably well-organized essay, and to control errors. Based on writing placement test scores, students will enroll in one of three classes, ENG 050, ENG 106, or ENG 110. Those not enrolled in ENG 050 will be placed in ENG 106 or ENG 110 based on their writing placement. Students who will benefit from smaller classes and remedial instruction will earn a place in ENG 050: Basic Writing. Students must earn a grade of "C" or higher to satisfy the developmental writing placement.