

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.

Optional Testing:

- *You may also choose to test in mathematics if your math SAT is between 545 and 605, if you wish to begin a sequence of math requirements with a higher-level course, or if you want to 'test out' of the Shippensburg University math requirement for graduation. This testing is optional.*

Whether it is worthwhile to voluntarily test in math or not depends upon the math requirements of your major:

- If you choose to major in a liberal arts/non-technical field, you **may** satisfy the math requirement by scoring at Level 5 or 6 on the placement test or by achieving a math SAT above 605.
- For other majors, especially business and economics, you may start with a higher-level math course and omit the college-level prerequisite. For example, business requires college algebra and applied calculus, in succession. Scoring at Level 5 or 6 on the placement test allows you to omit college algebra and move directly to applied calculus.
- If you wish to major in a technical field (math, computer science, the sciences), testing at Level 5 or 6 **may** permit you to skip pre-calculus and move directly on to calculus. Whether this option is wise depends upon your prior calculus background. In some instances, it may be more prudent to begin with pre-calculus to enhance your calculus skills. You may wish to discuss your options with your high school math teacher or the Department of Mathematics (717-477-1431).
- If you wish to major in teacher education, scoring at Level 5 or 6 will make no difference, as you will still need to enroll in two required math courses.
- **No course credit will be given for testing at the advanced level.** If you 'save' credits by testing out of a course, you may use those credits as free electives.

Developmental Placements

Students scoring into a developmental-level will be scheduled into the appropriate course. 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.

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. Whenever possible, students are recommended to remediate any developmental placement prior to beginning classes at Shippensburg University.

Frequently, students who test into a developmental level do not sufficiently review prior to testing. Please access and review all possible resources.

Testing begins promptly at the announced times. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Once testing begins, it will be impossible to admit you to the testing arena. Retain this brochure and record your appointment date, time, and testing site for your reference.

DATE: _____ TIME: _____

LOCATION: _____

Alternate Testing Sites

Several colleges are participating as alternate test sites. Contact information is available on the placement testing website at www.ship.edu/testing.

Confirmations will not be sent.

Students required to complete any part of placement testing MUST complete all testing requirements before their orientation date in order to register for classes during June or July Orientation. This means you MUST complete your placement testing requirement ASAP.



SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY

School of Academic Programs & Services
Placement Testing Office

Shippensburg University
1871 Old Main Drive
Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299
717-477-1395
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.

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Placement Testing



SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY

WWW.SHIP.EDU

Placement Testing at Shippensburg University

Testing Procedures

First-year students who have confirmed their admission to Shippensburg University will receive a letter indicating which test(s) they are required to take accompanied by this brochure from the Placement Testing Office. **Please read carefully.**

Registration: Students required to complete any part of placement testing **MUST** complete all testing requirements before their orientation date in order to register for classes during June or July Orientation. This means you **MUST** complete your placement testing requirement ASAP. Registration information (dates and locations) is posted on the testing website. Record your selected date, time and testing site on the back of this brochure for future reference. *If you are not required to test in Math, Reading, or English (writing), you need not register for testing. If you are not required to test but wish to take an optional testing (math or English), please read on.*

Timing: All tests are **untimed**. Plan on a maximum of two and a half hours. Many students will finish in less time. All tests are completed in one sitting.

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

Social Security Numbers and Identification: You are required to enter your social security number when you test. You must bring a photo ID, and know your social security number.

Background Questions: You will be asked to answer background questions; responses are optional.

Test Results: You will receive your results immediately after testing, except for English Placement. Make sure you understand the results before you leave testing. If necessary, call us for a more thorough explanation. English Placement results will be available on Ship's web site. Directions for accessing your placement result will be distributed at testing.

Retesting: Students who qualify for a retest will be informed.

Test Preparations

Since developmental courses do not count toward graduation, it is imperative that students review before testing. For the reading test, read, read, read! For the math test, review Algebra I & II material. Practice tests are available on the placement testing website at www.ship.edu/testing. For the writing test, review grammar.

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.

Descriptions of the Tests

English Placement Essay

The English composition program is designed to provide you with sufficient writing skills to fulfill undergraduate writing requirements. You will earn a placement in a writing class based on your highest writing SAT score. Students without a writing SAT score and those who qualify (see Test Reservation Form: Gold Sheet) for an alternate assessment will write an essay on a topic in which you have some general knowledge. No special preparation is needed, other than to focus on writing as well as possible. We will provide a blue book for outlines, rough drafts, and a final copy. Only your final copy will be evaluated.

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. 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. 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.

Optional Testing:

- *You may choose to test in English if your writing SAT is between 545 and 645 if you wish to be invited to enroll in ENG 110: Advanced Placement Writing. This testing is optional.*

Reading Comprehension Test

The Reading Comprehension Test requires you to understand what you read, critically analyze the main ideas of a passage, and draw inferences. Questions are composed of two primary types. The first type includes both long and short reading passages with questions based on the text. The second type of question involves sentence relationships. Two sentences are presented, followed by a question about the relationship between the two sentences. For example, a question may ask if the statement in the second sentence supports that in the first, if it contradicts it, or if it repeats the same information. A passing score requires no further work.

A developmental placement requires you to pass coursework designed to improve your reading skills. Students must earn a grade of "C" or higher or its equivalent to satisfy the developmental reading placement.

There is no optional test.

**For registration information check out the testing website at:
www.ship.edu/testing**

Mathematics Placement Test

Your test results will determine your eligibility to enroll in college-level math courses. Test scores 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.

The 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 accessible via the placement testing website listed on the previous panel in preparation for the math placement test.

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** includes simplifying rational algebraic expressions, factoring and expanding polynomials, and manipulating roots and exponents.
2. **Solutions of equations and inequalities** includes 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.