

## COMPASS MATHEMATICS TEST

At ASU, the COMPASS placement exam is used to determine whether the student is ready for college level mathematics courses or if the student would benefit from Learning Support mathematics courses. Each domain has a question pool of at least 200 items. If a student performs well in one section, the test will move the student to the next section. This process continues until the student's level of proficiency is established. *Students are permitted to use basic calculators (which are supplied) for the mathematics portion of the exam. No personal calculators are permitted.* The pre-algebra sections includes the following:

|                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Basic operations with integers        | Fractions and decimals   |
| Exponents                             | Square roots             |
| Scientific notation                   | ratios                   |
| proportions                           | percentages              |
| Conversions of fractions and decimals | Multiples and factors    |
| Absolute value                        | averages                 |
| Ranges                                | Order concepts $<$ , $>$ |
| estimation                            | probability              |

**Number theory**  
The algebra portion is divided into elementary algebra, intermediate algebra, and coordinate geometry. Elementary algebra covers:

|                                              |                                            |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Substituting values into algebraic equations | Setting up equations for a given situation |
| polynomials                                  | Factoring polynomials                      |
| Solving polynomial equations                 | Formula manipulation                       |
| axioms                                       | radicals                                   |
| exponents                                    | Linear inequalities in one variable        |

Linear equations in one variable (using integers, fractions and decimals as coefficients)

## Testing and Disability Service Staff

**Angie S. Kitchens, M.S.**  
Director

**Conrad Smith**  
Testing Coordinator

**Felicia E. James**  
Administrative Secretary

Our staff is on hand to assist with any questions you might have about the exam.

If you have any questions regarding requirements for taking COMPASS, please contact **Admissions at 706-737-1632.**

### Location

Testing and Disability Services is located in the Quadrangle between Fanning Hall (Business Office) and Benet Hall (Admission) and Payne Hall (Financial Aid & Registrar's Office).

COMPASS is given on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please check our online calendars at [http://www.aug.edu/testing\\_and\\_disability\\_services/testing\\_compass.html](http://www.aug.edu/testing_and_disability_services/testing_compass.html) for a complete list of updated dates and times.

Please have your photo ID with you.



## COMPASS Testing Guide



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Tel. 706-737-1469  
Fax. 706-729-2298



## COMPASS - Placement Exam

The COMPASS is a computer based placement test. Individuals will be notified by the Admissions Office if this test is necessary to complete the admission's process.

Students seeking admission to ASU must take the COMPASS if they:

- Do not have SAT/ACT scores
- Have SAT Verbal less than 500
- All freshman applicants must take the math portion
- Have a calculated Freshman Index below institutional requirements
- Have a deficiency in college preparatory English and/or mathematics.

The Testing Computer Lab is open Tuesdays - Thursdays. Please check our online calendars at

[http://www.aug.edu/testing\\_and\\_disability\\_services/testing/compass.html](http://www.aug.edu/testing_and_disability_services/testing/compass.html) for a complete list of updated dates and times.

Picture ID is required for testing.

Individuals interested in study material can come to Testing and Disability Services to review study guides, or materials can be purchased from the ASU Campus Bookstore.



### What does the test consist of?

COMPASS consists of 3 different tests:

- Writing
- Reading
- Arithmetic

COMPASS differs from other placement tests in that it is computerized and adaptive. An adaptive test generates questions based upon the individual responses of the students taking the test. In other words, the number of questions given during a testing session is dependent upon the responses of the student testing. Each test will be unique and untimed.

### COMPASS WRITING SKILLS TEST

The COMPASS Writing Skills Test is used to determine whether the student has the required writing skills and knowledge to succeed in an entry level college composition course or if the student will benefit from Learning Support course work in English composition.

The test simulates the editing process by presenting an essay and requiring the student to locate and then correct grammar, usage, and style errors. The test offers several essays each approximately 200 words in length. The essays are presented as a whole without any indication as to the location of the errors. The student selects the segment to be edited and is presented with five possible corrections. "Choice "A" is always the same as the uncorrected segment and is selected when no error is found. Additionally, the test presents one or two multiple choice questions at the conclusion of the editing process that pose global questions related to the passage.

**HINT: After competing the editing process, the students should ALWAYS reread the essay with the corrections. Once the choices are confirmed, it is not possible to return to the essay.**

### COMPASS READING SKILLS TEST

The COMPASS reading skills test is used to determine whether a student's reading ability is at the level necessary to be successful in college level courses or if the student will benefit from Learning Support reading courses. The focus of the test is on the student's ability to understand the material read. Passages range from 190 to 300 words on a reading level that is less difficult than most first year college texts.

The test consists of a pool of 54 passages, each accompanied by 5 reading comprehension items. There are five types of passages: practical reading; prose fiction, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.

Practical reading passages present everyday types of situations and experiences.

Prose fiction selections involve the narration of events or a story and provide information on characters.

The humanities passages provide a description or analysis of ideas or works of art and craft.

Social science passages address information gathered by research in areas of Psychology, History, Sociology, Anthropology and Political Science.

The natural science selections present a science topic with an explanation of its significance.

The majority of the 54 passages are excerpts from copyrighted material with the remainder original works by ACT contracted item writers.

