

Placement Testing

Each college shall offer VCCS approved placement strategies that provide consistent and reliable assessment results for students applying to enroll in associate degree, diploma, and certificate programs and in courses that require a reading, writing, or math prerequisite. Students enrolling in Career Studies Certificate programs may be waived from placement, unless a course in the program requires a reading, writing, or math prerequisite. Assessment should be offered through placement testing and other approved measures. VCCS policies, guidelines and procedures shall be followed when assessing students.

Dual enrolled high school students who enroll in programs or courses must meet the admissions criteria specified in the General Admissions Policy I-12 and VCCS Policy 6.0.1.1.

In determining students' readiness for college-level English and math courses, colleges will use the following means and measures:

1. Any student who has earned an associate degree or higher who has earned a C or better in college-level courses in math and/or English at a regionally accredited institution will be exempt from placement testing provided they meet the prerequisites for the respective courses in their chosen program of study.
2. Any student who has successfully completed developmental courses at a VCCS institution will be exempt from placement testing in those areas. Previously taken developmental courses will be valid for five years after the term taken.
3. Any student who has successfully completed developmental courses at a non-VCCS institution within the last five years will have their coursework evaluated for placement.
4. A student may submit a high school/home school transcript or an approved test score for placement evaluation. Placement will be based on tables found in Tables 1 and 2 of this policy. Seniors who have not yet graduated may submit a transcript at the completion of the first semester of their senior year to determine readiness for placement into college-level courses for the purpose of early admission.
5. Any student not placed by the above criteria will take the Virginia Placement Test or ESL-specific test, as appropriate. Students have the option to take the Virginia Placement Test in order to improve their placement standing after other measures are considered. Such placement test scores will not be used to place a student in a lower English or math course than indicated by other criteria, unless the student desires the lower placement.

Table 1 Measures for Math Placement

Math placement will be determined using one of the following measures.

Mathematics Criteria	HS GPA or Score Range	Placement
HS GPA & Alg. II & One Alg. Intensive Course * <small>*Algebra Intensive Courses above Algebra II: Trigonometry, Math Analysis, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Algebra III.</small>	*3.0 or higher	MTE 1-9 Satisfied
	2.7 - 2.9	MTE 1-9 Co-req. Eligible
HS GPA & Alg. II	3.0 or higher	MTE 1-5 Satisfied
	2.7 - 2.9	MTE 1-5 Co-req. Eligible
HS GPA & Alg. I	3.0 or higher	MTE 1-3 Satisfied
SAT - Mathematics (tested before March 2016)	520	MTE 1-9 Satisfied
SAT - Mathematics (tested in/after March 2016)	530 or above	MTE 1-9 Satisfied
	510 - 520	MTE 1-5 Satisfied
ACT - Subject Area Math	22 or above	MTE 1-9 Satisfied
	19 - 21	MTE 1-5 Satisfied
GED - Math	165 or above	MTE 1-5 Satisfied
	155 - 164	MTE 1-3 Satisfied

Students may complete the VPT – Calculus for placement into Pre-Calculus II, Calculus, and 200-level Statistics. Placement directly into Pre-Calculus II, Calculus, and 200-level Statistics based on HSGPA and highest level courses taken will be at the discretion of each college.

Table 2 Measures for English Placement

English placement will be determined using one of the following measures.

English Criteria	HS GPA or Score Range	Placement
HS GPA	3.0 or higher	ENG 111
	2.7 - 2.9	ENF 3/ENG 111
SAT - Critical Reading & Writing (tested before March 2016)	500 in both areas	ENG 111
SAT - Evidence Based Reading & Writing (tested in/after March 2016)	480 or above	ENG 111
	460 - 470	ENF 3/ENG 111
ACT - Subject Area Tests English & Reading	18 or above	ENG 111
	15 - 17	ENF 3/ENG 111
GED - English	165 or above	ENG 111

Validity and Retesting

High school GPA (HSGPA) is valid for five (5) years after the date of high school graduation. SAT, ACT and GED Test scores are valid for five (5) years after the date of the test. Virginia Placement Test-Math scores are valid for five (5) years after the date of the test. Previously taken developmental courses will be valid for five (5) years after term taken.

Students who take the Virginia Placement Test who do not enroll in developmental education courses are allowed to take one retest within twelve months. Students who attempt developmental education courses are ineligible for a retest.