

## Accuplacer Frequently Asked Questions

Arkansas Baptist College will adopt the College Board Accuplacer system of assessments January 1, 2017. It will replace the ACT Compass Exam which has been administered from 2009 through 2016. The College Board Accuplacer system is a comprehensive, web-based, integrated suite of computer-adaptive placement and diagnostics exams design to evaluate students' skills in Reading Comprehension, Sentence skills (Writing), and Mathematics. The Accuplacer System delivers results immediately and accurately (The College Board, 2012).

- 1. Why are placement tests used?** Placement exams assist the Academic Advisors at Arkansas Baptist College with assigning students classes according to their skills in Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills (Writing), and Mathematics. The placement exams are used to assign students to General Education or Enrichment Courses.
- 2. Why are diagnostic tests used?** Diagnostics exams provide a detailed analysis of a student's strengths and weaknesses in a curriculum (The College Board, 2012). Arkansas Baptist College instructors use this device to identify a student's weakness and to build those skills with classroom activities.
- 3. The Accuplacer exams are a computer adaptive tests (CAT)? Please explain how that benefits students.** In computer adaptive tests, questions are chosen on the basis of answers to previous questions. This technique selects just the right questions for the student's ability level (The College Board, 2016). The computer adapted tests (CAT) include a suite of assessments including Reading Comprehension, Sentence skills (Writing), Mathematics, English as a Second Language (ESL), and Computer Skills.
- 4. Are all Accuplacer test questions in a multiple-choice format?**  
All the Accuplacer CAT exams use the multiple-choice format; however, the Accuplacer WritePlacer, which is an essay assessment, does not.
- 5. Are Accuplacer Tests timed?**  
No, Accuplacer assessments are untimed. Students can work at a comfortable pace, and students may take the tests together or one at a time.
- 6. Can I fail Accuplacer?**  
No one passes or fails an ACCUPLACER test. However, students must complete the test using their best effort so there is an accurate measure of the student's academic skills.
- 7. How many questions are on the Accuplacer test?**  
The number of questions on the Accuplacer Exam varies depending on the exam taken. The placement exams for reading, writing, and math could be as few as 17 questions or as many as 20. The reading, writing, and math diagnostic exams have 40 questions each. The ESL tests have 20 questions for reading, writing, and math. The two Computer Skills exams have between 30 and 70 questions.
- 8. Are there study materials for the Accuplacer test?**

There are free study resources available including a practice application (APP) for phones or tablets and the Accuplacer Study Guide for Students. Students can pick up a hard copy of the Accuplacer Study Guide in the Testing Services Office in Old Main B110. The APP and the study guide are available on the Arkansas Baptist College Website under the Academics tab or <http://www.arkansasbaptist.edu/testing-services/>

9. **Are there disability accommodations for Accuplacer assessments?**

Yes, the tests allows students to self-identify and request accommodations. Please notify the Testing Service Office prior to taking you exam, bring a copy of the documented disability to the Arkansas Baptist Disability Coordinator and self-identify if accommodations are needed for testing, classrooms, and/or housing.

10. **What should I take to the test center on test day?**

Students must bring a State issued photo ID or an Arkansas Baptist College ID and any disability information.

11. **Can students remote test?** Yes, contact Arkansas Baptist College's Testing Services Office to learn more about remote testing options. With permission from the College and a local, secure institution with an authorized proctor, students may take the exam near their home location.

12. **When will I receive my scores?** Individual student reports are available immediately after testing for viewing. Academic advisers can meet with students to interpret results, discuss options, and make a plan prior to registration for courses (College Board, 2012).

13. **Is there a cost to take the Accuplacer?** There is no charge for a student's initial test when they are admitted to institution. Additional testing may incur a \$25 charge.

14. **How do I make an appointment to take Accuplacer Exams?**

The Accuplacer Exam will be administered during spring, summer, and fall registration and pre-registration. Students may also make an appointment to take an Accuplacer test by visiting Old Main B110, calling (501) 420-1230, or emailing [Marcell.Banks@arkansasbaptist.edu](mailto:Marcell.Banks@arkansasbaptist.edu)

## References

The College Board (2012) Accuplacer guide to testing and innovative practices. College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

[http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/Accuplacer/Accuplacer\\_revealing-best-practices.pdf](http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/Accuplacer/Accuplacer_revealing-best-practices.pdf)

The College Board (2016) Accuplacer guide to testing and innovative practices. College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation. <https://Accuplacer.collegeboard.org/students/faqs>