



## PLACEMENT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Information for International Students  
Academic Year 2013-2014

### **WHO TAKES PLACEMENT ASSESSMENTS**

New degree-seeking students are normally required to take Franklin University placement tests in reading, writing, math and computer literacy. Any student for whom English is not their primary language will be required to take English as a Second Language placement tests. Results of these tests determine the required preparatory and developmental education courses that are most appropriate for each individual. These courses are usually the first courses of enrollment because they are designed to help students succeed by strengthening academic skills and self-confidence. Transfer students may have certain tests waived due to previous course credit at another institution. Additionally, students who have taken the ACT may not have to take certain placement tests. Admissions or Academic Advisor will advise students on the placement tests required, ways to prepare for tests, and appeal procedures. Students are not eligible to take a placement test for a course in which they have received a "W" or failing grade, or if it is during or after the second week of the session during which they are enrolled in the course.

### **TEST DESCRIPTIONS**

The ACCUPLACER English-As-A-Second Language (ESL) tests are computer-adaptive tests intended for use in placing non-native speakers of English into ESL courses. ACCUPLACER ESL tests are ESL Reading Skills, ESL Language Use, ESL Sentence Meaning, ESL Listening, and WritePlacer ESL.

#### **ESL READING SKILLS → No time limit, 20 questions, multiple choice**

The ESL Reading Skills test measures a student's ability to read English. Specifically, it assesses students' comprehension of short passages. The test contains brief passages of 50 words or less and moderate length passages of 50 to 90 words. Reading passages are drawn from five content areas: (1 Science, (2 History/Social Science, (3 Arts/Humanities, (4 Narrative, (5 Psychology/Human Relations, and (6 Practical Situations. Half of this test contains straightforward comprehension items (paraphrase, locating information, vocabulary on a phrase level, and pronoun reference). The other half assesses inference skills (main idea, fact vs. opinion, cause/effect logic, identifying irrelevant information, author's point of view, and applying the author's logic to another situation).

#### **ESL LANGUAGE USE → No time limit, 20 questions, multiple choice**

The ESL Language Use Test measures a student's proficiency in using correct grammar in English sentences. There are five content areas measured on this test: (1 Nouns, Pronouns, Pronoun Case Structure, (2 Sentence Structure, (3 Subject-Verb Agreement, (4 Adverbs, Adjectives, Verbs, and (5 Subordination/Coordination. Items on the ESL Language Use test come in two formats: Completing a sentence by filling in a blank with the word or phrase from the choices given and choosing a sentence that best combines two discrete sentences that are given. The skills covered are: subject-verb agreement, verb tenses, irregular verb forms, appropriate verb forms in structures, noun-noun agreement, noun forms, pronouns, modifiers, comparatives, prepositions, connectives, parallelism, and sentence fragments/run-ons.

**ESL SENTENCE MEANING → No time limit, 20 questions, multiple choice**

The ESL Sentence Meaning test measures how well students understand the meaning of sentences in English. It assesses the understanding of word meanings in one- or two-sentence contexts. The sentences are drawn from the content areas of natural science, history/social studies, arts/humanities, psychology/human relations, and practical situations. There are four content areas measured: (1 Particles, Phrasal Verbs, and Prepositions; (2 Adverbs, Adjectives, Connectives Sequence, (3 Basic Nouns and Verbs, and (4 Basic and Important Idioms.

**ESL LISTENING → No time limit, 20 questions, multiple choice**

ESL Listening is a direct measure of the listening skills of non-native English speaking students. The test measures the ability to listen to and understand one or more people speaking in English. The conversations take place in academic environments such as lecture halls, study sessions, a computer lab, the library, and the gymnasium; and in everyday environments such as at home, shopping, at a restaurant, at a dentist's office, listening to the radio, reading the newspaper, and performing tasks at work. While looking at pictures of the speakers, the student listens to a conversation or lecture. The question is then read followed by the four answer choices. Students can click on the appropriate *Play* button to replay the conversation, the question, or any of the answer choices. Each of these can be heard only two more times after the initial reading.

**WRITEPLACER ESL → No time limit, 300-600 word essay**

WritePlacer ESL provides a direct measure of the writing skills of students who are not native speakers of English. WritePlacer ESL scores can be used in conjunction with other ACCUPLACER test scores to assist with the placement of students into college-level, developmental or various levels of ESL courses.

WritePlacer ESL examinees are asked to write an essay of 300 to 600 words in response to one of several prompts available in the system. Essays are electronically scored and a holistic score (0-6) is reported on the Individual Score Report.

**ESL SPEAKING → 15 minutes, conversation with ESL instructor**

For the speaking portion of the ESL tests, students must meet with an ESL instructor. Students need to contact the SLC to schedule an appointment. Students will have a brief conversation about a variety of topics such as childhood experiences, family, and educational and professional goals.

**RE-ENTRY MATH → No time limit, 17 questions, multiple choice**

The Re-Entry Math assessment is a computer-based test that places students into or exempts them from Re-Entry Math (MATH 040). The test measures students' ability to perform basic arithmetic operations and to solve problems that involve fundamental arithmetic concepts. There are three content areas measured on this test: (1 Whole numbers and fractions, (2 Decimals and percents, and (3 Applications. Questions from all three categories are always presented to the student, although the number of questions from each category varies with the student's skill level. As a result, the proportion of questions in the various categories will automatically vary according to the student's responses. An online calculator will be available for certain items.

### **FUNDAMENTAL ALGEBRA → 2 hours, 22 questions, multiple choice**

All students (except those in subsequent degree programs) must meet the algebra competency requirement and may do so by taking the Algebra Competency assessment. This computer-based assessment places students into or exempts them from Fundamental Algebra (MATH 150). In addition, successful completion of this assessment meets the prerequisite for College Algebra (MATH 160) which is required for Computer Science, Digital Communications and Management Information Sciences students. The Algebra Competency assessment contains 22 multiple choice questions and must be completed within 2 hours. To demonstrate proficiency, students must answer at least 16 of the questions correctly. A programmable graphing calculator may be used although the TI-89 and TI-92 are not permitted.

### **COMPUTER LITERACY → no time limit, 30 questions, multiple choice**

Effective June 2013, the Accuplacer Computer Skills Basic Assessment will be administered to all students completing placement tests. Students' scores will allow advisors to discuss computer skills and recommend remediation as needed. Placement will result in CLSR (Computer Literacy Strongly Recommended), CLR (Computer Literacy Recommended), or CLW (Computer Literacy Waived).

### **SCORES AND INTERPRETATION**

It is important that students answer each question to the best of their ability. Scores will be used in part to determine course placement. Failure to do one's best may result in course placements that are inaccurate for a student's skill level.

Students will learn the scores of their Reading & Writing, Re-entry Math, Algebra Competency, and Computer Literacy placement assessments upon completion of each exam. These scores will be made available to your Admissions Advisor or Academic Advisor.

Placement into Basic Writing I will automatically place a student into College Reading Skills (COMM 020) and College Study Skills and Orientation (COMM 025).

Students may appeal placement for any test if they have reason to believe that a placement test did not give an accurate assessment of their skills. To appeal the results of these tests, students will need to request permission to complete a "re-take" assessment which will cover the same material but will not be identical to the original placement assessment. If permission by the Admissions Advisor or Academic Advisor is granted, there is a one-week waiting period between the original and re-take placement test to allow students to review the placement study guides before re-testing. Students will be charged \$15 per test re-take. Subsequent test retakes will be considered after a three month waiting period.

## **TAKING THE ASSESSMENTS**

Franklin University has established procedures that must be followed while taking the placement assessments. They are as follows:

1. On the day of the assessment, you should be sure to take a valid, government-issued photo ID. This can be a driver's license, passport, state ID, or military ID.
2. You are not allowed to use any notebooks or books during the tests but scrap paper will be provided, if needed.
3. You must have your Placement Assessment Form emailed to the SLC by an Admissions or Academic Advisor.
4. Personal belongings will need to be stored in a locker or left in your vehicle.
5. You will be asked to sign the Placement Testing Agreement at the time you begin your first assessment.

## **PLACEMENT ASSESSMENT AVAILABILITY**

The Main Campus Student Learning Center, located in Fisher Hall, offers placement testing on a drop-in basis during Student Learning Center (SLC) hours of operation. The Northwest Campus SLC offers drop-in placement testing during its hours of operation. **Please note that the Speaking portion of the ESL placement assessments is only administered at the Main Campus SLC and an appointment must be scheduled for this portion of the placement assessments.**

<b>Main Campus SLC</b>	<b>Dublin/Northwest Campus SLC</b>	<b>Beavercreek Testing Center</b>
<p>Hours of Operation</p> <p>Monday - 10 am - 8 pm</p> <p>Thursday</p> <p>Friday 10 am - 4 pm</p> <p>Saturday 9 am - 5 pm</p>	<p>Hours of Operation</p> <p>Thursday 3 - 7 pm</p>	<p>Hours of Operation</p> <p>Tuesday 5 -9 pm</p> <p>Wed. 5 -9 pm</p> <p>Friday 11 am- 3pm</p>
<p>Telephone Number</p> <p>614.947.6800 or toll-free 1.866.341.6206</p>	<p>Telephone Number</p> <p>614.947.6709 or toll-free 1.866.341.6206</p>	<p>Telephone Number</p> <p>937.705-6914</p>
<p>E-Mail</p> <p>testing@franklin.edu</p>		

Please note that all testing must be concluded by the closing time of the SLC (i.e. if the SLC closes at 8:00 p.m. and the time allowed for a particular test is an hour and a half, the latest you can begin your test is 6:30 p.m.). Please call 614.947.6800 if you have questions.

*Note: If you are located outside the Central Ohio area, please contact your SSA (toll-free 1.877.341.6300) to make arrangements to set up placement testing.*