

COURSE PLACEMENT & TESTING.

WHAT IS PLACEMENT ANYWAY?

Placement is used to determine in which courses a student should enroll in order to be most successful.

Transfer credits, CLEP credits and Advanced Placement scores may impact which courses are right for you.

WHAT COURSES ARE DETERMINED BY PLACEMENT?

English, reading and math are always determined using placement standards.

Where applicable, **modern languages (French, German and Spanish) and Chemistry** may be determined by placement exams administered through those departments.

ENGLISH & READING PLACEMENT

Use the charts below to determine your placement.

ACT ENGLISH SUBSCORE	ENGLISH PLACEMENT
0-13	ENGL 033 Basic Writing III [*pre-general education requirement]
14-17	ENGL 032 Basic Writing II [*pre-general education requirement]
18+	ENGL 101 Composition I

ACT READING SUBSCORE	READING PLACEMENT
0-17	READ 041 Reading for College Success [*pre-general education requirement]
18+	No READ course required

MATH PLACEMENT

A **Math Index** score will be calculated for all students who have an ACT math subscore that is lower than 25 in order to determine their placement. The **Math Index** is calculated using a student's ACT math subscore and unweighted high school GPA.

ADDITIONAL MATH PLACEMENT INFORMATION

Students who have an **ACT math subscore of 25 or higher and who DO NOT NEED Calculus I (MATH 123)** for their major will be eligible to enroll in any 100-level math course or STAT 281.

Students who have an **ACT math subscore of 25 or higher and who DO NEED Calculus I (MATH 123)** for their major will be required to take a COMPASS exam. There is no fee for the exam.

WHAT MATH COURSE(S) DO I NEED FOR MY MAJOR?

Consult the SDSU undergraduate catalog to find out what math course(s) your major requires.

Visit catalog.sdstate.edu and select the current year's catalog from the drop-down list. Click on Academic Programs on the left. This will bring up an alphabetical list of majors. Click on your major and find the MATH prefix for your minimum required course.

MODERN LANGUAGE PLACEMENT

SDSU offers placement exams in French, German and Spanish. Any student who has prior knowledge of a modern language is strongly encouraged to take courses appropriate to their abilities.

A free online placement test is available. The score helps the Department of Modern Languages determine in what level course a student should enroll.

Take a [MODERN LANGUAGE EXAM](#) now.
Password: jacks1

CHEMISTRY PLACEMENT

Students enrolled in majors that require CHEM 112 (i.e. many of the programs in agriculture & biological sciences, engineering, pharmacy and chemistry, nutrition and food sciences and others) should take the online chemistry placement exam prior to or during their Orientation session.

The exam will determine in what chemistry course a student is encouraged to enroll. Students who earn a score of 50 percent or higher are well-prepared to take CHEM 112.

A preparatory chemistry course, CHEM 105, is available to any student who may not meet the recommended level of preparation for CHEM 112.

Again, students can [TAKE THE CHEMISTRY EXAM](#) prior to or during New Student Orientation. Students must submit their SDSU ID number to begin the exam.

HOW DO I KNOW MY PLACEMENT?

If you are attending New Student Orientation, you will receive a personalized academic profile sheet. Your profile will have your name, ID number and other academic information, **including your placement for English, math and reading.**

If your standardized test scores or GPA have changed or if you have credit coming in via transfer credits, CLEP or Advanced Placement, please see us at the NSO information table.

STUDENTS WHO DON'T HAVE ACT/SAT SCORES:

If you've never taken an ACT or SAT or if your scores are more than five years old, you will be required to take a placement exam to determine your initial placement. In this case, there is no fee when you take the test on campus.

Students who do not have scores might also look into taking the COMPASS exam ahead of time at a local testing site. Visit act.org/compass/advant/remot.html for more information.

WHAT IF I DON'T AGREE WITH MY PLACEMENT?

Students are strongly encouraged to enroll in the courses determined by placement; however, they are permitted to *challenge* their initial placement by taking a placement exam. Students get one opportunity to challenge and pay a fee of \$17.

We advise students to carefully consider the decision to challenge placement. Our placement policies are based on past statistical indicators. We recommend looking at how close you initially came to the next level's placement to determine your likelihood of successfully passing the placement challenge exams.

MORE INFORMATION

We know placement can be confusing, so please don't hesitate to get in touch with us with any questions.

Stop by the NSO information table during Orientation, visit sdstate.edu/aea, or contact the Office of Academic Evaluation & Assessment (AEA) at (605) 688-4217.

*A REGISTRATION NOTE

Any student who is placed in a pre-general education course [indicated by a course number starting with 0], including MATH095, ENGL032, ENGL033 and/or READ041 must successfully complete the course within the first 30 credit hours (or first two semesters for transfer students). These courses are meant to be preparatory and thus do not count toward graduation or degree requirements.