



The Right Choice

Placement Testing: What To Expect

THE TESTING CENTER
Berks Hall Room B-153
(610) 607-6224
[http://www.racc.edu/
Admissions/Placement](http://www.racc.edu/Admissions/Placement)

Online Application

Please apply to the College online: <https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/students> before taking the placement test.

Test Description and Sample Tests

Before the test, it is essential to take the **Practice Questions** and look at the **Test Descriptions** at: <https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/students>

Purpose of the Test

The test will measure skills in reading, writing and mathematics to help you determine the best courses for your current ability levels. The test takes approximately **2 ½ hours**.

Preparing for the Test

By preparing for the test you may be able to improve your scores and skip pre-college-level classes, saving time and money.

- ✓ Follow all the **Placement Testing TIPS** on the reverse side of this page before you test.

What Should I Bring?

- ✓ A current, valid, photo ID is required at the time of testing. (Driver's license, military ID card, high school ID if you are enrolled in high school).
- ✓ Do not bring a calculator, nor a dictionary. A pop-up calculator is online and other materials will be supplied.
- ✓ No food, drinks, cell phones or Internet-access devices are allowed.

Students with Disabilities

Prior to scheduling the test, students with a disability should contact **Disability Services** at 610-607-6245 to request appropriate accommodations.

Test Schedule and Placement Testing Rules

It is important to be familiar with the testing rules and to plan your test for a time you are rested and alert. Please visit our website at: <http://www.racc.edu/Admissions/Placement> and click on the **Testing Schedule** and the **Placement Testing Rules**.

Accessibility Wizard

Students with visual disabilities can use this feature to modify the font, background and cursor color, and spacing. Click on the icon at the bottom left corner of the screen.

Test Taking Strategy

Remember that the Placement Test is not a pass or fail test. It is used to PLACE you in the appropriate classes for your level. Simply prepare and do your best. If you are not sure of an answer, try to eliminate one or more of the choices and answer what appears to be the best choice. There is no penalty for wrong answers.

Waivers (Exemptions) from taking the Placement Test

Official documentation of academic credentials is required in order to have one or more portions of the placement test **waived**. Such credentials include SAT scores, prior coursework in college-level mathematics or an English Composition course with a "C" or better grade, meeting College requirements for Advanced Placement (AP) or CLEP exams. Please visit: http://www.racc.edu/Admissions/Placement_waiver.aspx.

What Happens After the Test?

Students will receive an Individual Placement Report on the day of testing. They will need to meet with an Academic Advisor in **the Academic Advising Center**, Berks Hall Room 209, to discuss their results, plan, and register for appropriate classes. Walk-in hours are available and advisors can also be seen by appointment at 610-607-6245.

Re-Testing Policy

Students may request one free retest after a 2-week waiting and preparation period. If a second retest is needed, students may do so after 2 months with the written permission of an Academic Advisor, Division Chair, or Dean.

Students Who Need to Update Computer Skills or Without Internet Access

The Placement Test is completely computer-based, as are the preparation resources. Students who do not have Internet access at home to utilize these, or who need to practice using a computer, should visit their local public library or the Yocum Library at RACC, in advance. **Yocum Library hours** are posted and students may use the computers on a space-available basis.

Preparation and Placement Testing Tips – Please See Reverse Side →



The Right Choice

PLACEMENT TESTING PREPARATION TIPS

For performing at your best on the placement test and reducing test anxiety

- ❖ **Practice ahead of time.** Visit <http://www.racc.edu/Admissions/Placement> and complete the **Sample Test Questions**, and review the **Sample Test descriptions** of the different parts of the placement test. If you plan ahead and give yourself time to prepare, you will be familiar with the material and more relaxed during the actual test. This can boost your scores significantly!
- ❖ **Get a good night's sleep the night before. Have a light meal or snack before the test.** If you are hungry or tired, it will affect your performance. (Please note that food and drinks are not allowed in the testing center, but brief breaks are allowed.)
- ❖ **Allow plenty of time to get to the testing center, and for the full 2 1/2 hours** which is the average testing time. If you feel rushed, you will have difficulty concentrating.
- ❖ **If you feel ill or if you have had something traumatic happen near testing day, consider re-scheduling** the placement test so you can be at your best.
- ❖ **Study with a friend.** Going through this positive process together helps motivate you both.
- ❖ **Very important: If needed, practice your computer skills.** Your test will be on a computer, and you will need to use a calculator. If you have not had experience with these, you must practice ahead of time. Public libraries and the RACC library have computers which are available to the public or to prospective students on a space-available basis, with a Berks County library card.
- ❖ **If you have anxiety over taking the test, practice positive thinking and relaxation skills.**
 - **Remember, you can't "fail" this test;** it will only show you what you have already learned so you can be placed in exactly the right classes to move forward in your goals. RACC has classes at all levels!
 - **Practice taking deep breaths and relaxing** tense muscles so that you can do it easily in the test center.
 - **Remember your long-term goals** and WHY you are doing this. Make up a word or phrase to remind yourself of your goal and to encourage yourself during testing. Example: "For my family" - "For a better job" - "For Me!"
 - **Practice positive thinking:** "I can do this!" – "I've handled much harder things" – "One step at a time."
 - **Try to exercise or take a walk** the morning of the test to relax yourself and wake up your mind. Even stretching in the bathroom right before the test helps!
 - If you do still find your anxiety overwhelming, **consider getting some training** from a professional counselor who can help you manage your fears.

**If you do the above you will be at your best the day of the test.
Congratulations on pursuing your goals at RACC!**