

## ACCUPLACER – Placement Exam

ACCUPLACER tests use a multiple-choice format (except for the WritePlacer). There's no time limit on the tests. ACCUPLACER uses the latest computer-adaptive technology. Questions are presented based on your individual skill level. Your response to each question drives the difficulty level of the next question. It's important to give each question as much thought as you can before selecting your answer.

### Test Descriptions

**Elementary Algebra:** comprised of 12 questions, measures your ability to perform basic algebraic operations and to solve problems involving elementary algebraic concepts. There are three types of Elementary Algebra questions:

- **Operations with integers and rational numbers:** topics include computation with integers and negative rationals, the use of absolute values, and ordering.
- **Operations with algebraic expressions:** topics include the evaluation of simple formulas and expressions, adding and subtracting monomials and polynomials, multiplying and dividing monomials and polynomials, the evaluation of positive rational roots and exponents, simplifying algebraic fractions, and factoring.
- **Solution of equations, inequalities, word problems:** topics include solving linear equations and inequalities, solving quadratic equations by factoring, solving verbal problems presented in an algebraic context, including geometric reasoning and graphing, and the translation of written phrases into algebraic expressions.

**Reading Comprehension:** comprised of 20 questions, measures your ability to understand what you read, to identify main ideas and to make inferences. You need to distinguish between direct statements and secondary or supporting ideas.

**Sentence Skills:** comprised of 20 questions, measures your understanding of sentence structure — what makes a sentence complete and clear. Some questions deal with the logic of the sentence, and others with the relationships between two sentences.

**WritePlacer (Essay):** measures your ability to write effectively, which is critical to academic success. Your writing sample will be scored on the basis of how effectively it communicates a whole message to the readers for the stated purpose. Your score is based on your ability to express, organize and support your opinions and ideas, not the position you take on the essay topic. The following five characteristics of writing will be considered:

- **Focus:** The clarity with which you maintain your main idea or point of view
- **Organization:** The clarity with which you structure your response and present a logical sequence of ideas
- **Development and Support:** The extent to which you elaborate on your ideas and the extent to which you present supporting details
- **Sentence Structure:** The effectiveness of your sentence structure
- **Mechanical Conventions:** The extent to which your writing is free of errors in usage and mechanic