

English and Mathematics Tests Required of Most New Students

Learning Skills Center
Lassen Hall 2200
(916) 278-6725
www.csus.edu/learningskills

The CSU requires new students to be tested in English (the English Placement Test or EPT) and mathematics (the Entry Level Mathematics Examination or ELM) as soon as possible before enrollment. These are not admission tests, but a way to determine if students are prepared for college work and, if not, to counsel students on how to strengthen their preparation. Students might be exempt from one or both of the tests if they have scored well on other specified tests or completed appropriate courses (see exemptions on the following pages).

Students wishing to enroll in certain science, mathematics, and foreign language courses must also take placement examinations, usually in advance of enrollment. These requirements and related procedures are outlined below; examinations are necessary for appropriate course selection.

English Placement Test (EPT) and Exemptions

All non-exempt undergraduates prior to placement in appropriate university English course work must complete the CSU English Placement Test. The EPT may be taken only once. Exemptions from the test are given only to those who present proof of one of the following:

- A score of 550 or above on the Verbal section of the College Board SAT I* Reasoning Test taken on or after April 1, 1995.
- A score of 470 or above on the Verbal section of the College Board SAT I* Reasoning Test taken between March 1994 and March 1995. A score of 470 or above on the Verbal section of the College Board Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) taken prior to March 1994.
- A score of 24 or above on the enhanced ACT English Test taken October 1989 or later.
- A score of 22 or above on the American College Testing (ACT) English Usage Test taken prior to October 1989.
- A score of 680 or above on the re-centered and adjusted College Board SAT II: Writing Test taken May 1998 or after.*
- A score of 660 or above on the College Board SAT II in English Composition with essay taken prior to January 1994.*
- A score of 3, 4, or 5 on either the Language and Composition or the Composition and Literature examination of the College Board Scholastic Advanced Placement program.
- A score on the CSU English Equivalency Examination that qualifies the student for "Pass for Credit" or "Exemption."

- Completion and transfer of a course that satisfies the General Education-Breadth or Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) written communication requirement, provided such course was completed with a grade of "C" or better.

The results of the EPT will not affect admission eligibility but will be used to identify students who need special help in English in order to do college-level work. This required test determines whether students should enroll in English 1A (College Composition), English 1 (Basic Writing Skills), or Learning Skills 15 (College Language Skills), or equivalent multilingual classes.

Failure to take the English Placement Test before the first semester of enrollment will prevent students from registering for any classes. Placement tests at other colleges or universities do not apply; however, the EPT may be taken at any other CSU campus.

***Note:** The College Board SAT and Achievement Test were replaced by SAT I and SAT II respectively, beginning March 1994. Beginning April 1, 1995, the SAT I and SAT II exams have been scored on a new scale.

English Requirements for International Students (on Visa) and Permanent Residents /English Diagnostic Test (EDT)

All undergraduate international students (with visas) and permanent residents (green card holders) from non-English speaking countries must take both the English Placement Test (unless exempt; see above) and the English Diagnostic Test (EDT). All other native speakers of languages other than English are encouraged to take the EDT as well. The English Diagnostic Test will determine placement in the most appropriate English course for each student and will determine which students are eligible for the multilingual administration of the Writing Proficiency Exam. Until this test requirement is met, international students and permanent residents will not be allowed to register for any classes, including multilingual classes.

Students will be placed in the following course sequence according to their score on the English Diagnostic Test:

- Learning Skills 86
- Learning Skills 87
- English 2

If students are required to take one of the courses indicated above they must enroll in the prescribed course during their first semester on campus or they may not be able to enroll in the next semester.

Entry Level Mathematics (ELM) Exam and Exemptions

The ELM examination tests for entry-level mathematics skills acquired through three years of rigorous college preparatory mathematics course work (normally Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry). All undergraduate students must take the test or be exempted from it prior to placement in appropriate university mathematics course work.

placement tests

Exemptions from the test are given only to those students who can present proof of one of the following:

- A score of 550 or above on the mathematics section of the College Board SAT I Reasoning Test or on the College Board SAT II Mathematics Tests Level I, IC (Calculator), II, or IIC (Calculator).
- A score of 23 or above on the enhanced ACT Mathematics Test taken October 1989 or later.
- A score of 24 or above on the ACT Mathematics Test taken prior to October 1989.
- A score of 3 or above on the College Board Advanced Placement Mathematics examination (AB or BC) or Statistics examination.
- A score of 550 or above on the Level I, IC, II or IIC SAT II: Mathematics Test.
- Completion and transfer of a course that satisfies the General Education-Breadth or Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) quantitative reasoning requirement, provided such course was completed with a grade of “C” or better.

The results of the ELM exam will not affect admission eligibility, but will be used to identify students who need special help in math in order to do college-level work (see the “mathematics” section below for specific placement information). Failure to take the ELM exam before the first semester of enrollment as required will prevent students from enrolling at the University. The ELM exam may be taken more than once.

Required English and Mathematics Preparatory Courses for Freshmen - Executive Order 665

According to CSU Executive Order 665, students who do not pass the EPT and/or ELM are required to enroll in the appropriate preparatory courses in their first semester of enrollment. **All preparatory courses must be completed within the students’ first year of enrollment; otherwise, the students will not be allowed to continue at the University, resulting in Administrative Disqualification.**

If students are administratively disqualified, they will be required to complete general education English and/or mathematics requirements at a community college with a “C-” or higher grade before returning to the University. The EPT scores and the appropriate course placement is shown below:

English

Entering freshmen scoring in one of the ranges below GE level on the EPT must enroll in the course corresponding to their placement range in the first semester at CSUS. During subsequent semesters, students must enroll for the next course in the sequence until college level English is complete. Multilingual students must take the English Diagnostic Test (EDT) if they did not take the EPT at CSUS.

| EPT Scores | Course Placement | Multilingual Course |
|------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 120 - 141 | LS 015 and ENGL 001 | LS 086 and LS 087 |
| 142 - 146 | ENGL 001 | LS 087 |
| 147 - 148 | ENGL 001 or ENGL 001A + 001X | LS 087 |
| 149+ | ENGL 001A | ENGL 002 |
| Sophomores | ENGL 020 | ENGL 020M |

Mathematics

If you are not exempt from the ELM Exam (see “above”), you must satisfy the ELM requirement by either passing the ELM Exam or passing the appropriate ELM equivalency courses. You must enroll in your required ELM equivalency course during your **first semester** at CSUS, and enroll in the subsequent semester if you are required to take a second course. **Your ELM exam score and whether you plan to take MATH 001 or a math course other than MATH 001 for your GE Area B4 will determine the course or course sequence you should take to satisfy the ELM requirement.**

| ELM Scores* | Preparatory Course Placement |
|--------------|--|
| 34 or below | → LS 007A and LS 007B |
| 36 - 42 | → LS 010A |
| 44 - 48 | → LS 010A or LS 010I for students planning to take MATH 001 for GE Area B4; MATH 009 and LS 010X for students planning to take a GE Area B4 course other than MATH 001 |
| 50 and above | → None required (ELM equivalency requirement met) |

After passing the ELM exam or the appropriate ELM equivalency courses, you may enroll in MATH 001 for the General Education Quantitative Reasoning requirement or take a Mathematics Department Diagnostic Test as a prerequisite to enrollment in other Mathematics courses. (see “Additional Course Placement Examination Requirements”)

More Information

Testing Center
Lassen Hall 2302
(916) 278-6296
www.csus.edu/testing

During the admission process, all students subject to these requirements will receive information about the placement tests. Students can register for the EPT and ELM online at: www.csus.edu/testing. The materials may also be obtained from the English Department or the Testing Center. Students may check their EPT and ELM status and placement scores at: <http://webapps1.csus.edu/admr/context/appstat/default.asp>.

Additional Course Placement Examination Requirements

Chemistry

Sequoia Hall 506
(916) 278-6684

Students enrolling in Chemistry 001A are required to take a General Chemistry Placement Examination. This examination should be taken in the Testing Center before registering through CASPER. Students who cannot take the examination at the Testing Center must take it in the first laboratory period during the first week of the semester.

Mathematics

Brighton Hall 141
(916) 278-6534

All students enrolling in a course that satisfies the General Education Quantitative Reasoning requirement must present a passing score on the Entry-Level Mathematics (ELM) examination as a prerequisite to enrollment, unless exempted by test scores or prior course completion.

Additionally, students are required to take diagnostic tests as follows:

MATH 009 and MATH 011*

Students are required to take a diagnostic test in basic Algebra and Geometry given during the first or second class meeting.

***Note:** MATH 009 and MATH 011 are not applicable to a baccalaureate degree.

MATH 017, 024, 26A, 029 and 107A and STAT 001

Students are required to take a diagnostic test in Intermediate Algebra given each semester during the week before instruction and during the first week of instruction.

MATH 030

Students are required to take a test in pre-calculus mathematics. This test can be taken in the Testing Center, Lassen Hall 2302, prior to the beginning of instruction.

Foreign Language

Mariposa Hall 2051
(916) 278-6333

CSUS students who continue their study of a foreign language begun elsewhere must enroll in a course that does not duplicate previous college credits received. A placement test will be given prior to registration or at the first class meeting. If given prior to registration, it will be listed in the Class Schedule. Adjustment of registration, if necessary, will be made in accordance with the results of the placement exam.

Students who have begun the study of any foreign language in high school and who will enroll before taking the placement test may use the following as a guide for their first enrollment:

- 1A - if the student has less than two years of satisfactory high school study
- 1B - if the student has two but less than three years of high school study
- 1C - if students have completed up to two years of high school study or one year of college French or German or Spanish with failing or unsatisfactory achievement or evaluation; and if students have had an extended interruption of beginning or intermediate formal language study
- 2A - if the student has three but less than four years of high school study
- 2B - if the student has four years of high school study

Students who have acquired knowledge of a foreign language without having received high school or college credit should consult with an advisor for placement.