

English and Mathematics Tests Required of Most New Students

Learning Skills Center
Lassen Hall 2200
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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

The CSU English Placement Test (EPT) is designed to assess the level of reading and writing skills of entering undergraduate students so that they can be placed in appropriate baccalaureate-level courses. The EPT may be taken only once. The CSU EPT must be completed by all entering undergraduates, with the exception of those who present proof of one of the following:

- A score of “Exempt” on the augmented English CST, i.e. the CSU Early Assessment Program (EAP), taken in grade 11.
- A score of 550 or above on the verbal section of the College Board SAT I Reasoning Test taken April 1995 or later.
- A score of 24 or above on the enhanced ACT English Test taken October 1989 or later.
- A score of 680 or above on the re-centered and adjusted College Board SAT II: Writing Test taken May 1998 or later.
- A score of 3 or above on either the Language and Composition or the Composition and Literature examination of the College Board Scholastic Advanced Placement program.
- 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. 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 CSU campus. The EPT may be taken only once.

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 CSU 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.

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

- A score of “Exempt” on the augmented mathematics CST, i.e. the CSU Early Assessment Program (EAP), taken in grade 11.
- A score of “Conditional Exemption” on the augmented mathematics CST, i.e. the CSU Early Assessment Program (EAP), taken in grade 11, and a valid “senior year math experience” with a grade of “C-” or higher (e.g., math course above the level of Algebra II, Physics).
- 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 American College Testing Mathematics Test.
- A score of 3 or above on the College Board Advanced Placement Mathematics examination (AB or BC) or Statistics examination.

placement tests

- 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). Placement tests at other colleges or universities do not apply; however, the ELM may be taken at any CSU Campus. 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 and ELM scores with the appropriate course placement are 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 Sacramento State. 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 Sacramento State.

Multilingual students who take the EPT at Sacramento State will complete a survey to determine whether multilingual writing instruction is appropriate. The student’s EPT essay will be assessed to determine if the student could benefit from writing courses designed for multilingual students. If so, the student will be given an EDT score of 3, 4 or 5 in addition to the EPT score. See the chart below for information on placement in multilingual courses.

EPT Scores Only	Course Placement
120-141	LS 15 and ENGL 1
142-146	ENGL 1
147-148	ENGL 1 or ENGL 1A and 1X
149+	ENGL 1A*
Sophomores	ENGL 20
* If EPT score is 149-150, must pass ENGL 1A with at least a “C-” within the first year of enrollment.	
EPT and EDT Scores	Multilingual Course Placement
EPT=120-141 and EDT=3	LS 86 and LS 87
EPT=142-146 and EDT=4	LS 87
EPT=147-148 and EDT=5	LS 87 or ENGL 2 and 2X
EPT=149+ and EDT=5	ENGL 2*
Sophomores	ENGL 20M
* If EPT score is 149-150, must pass ENGL 2 with at least a “C-” within the first year of enrollment.	

Mathematics

Entering freshmen scoring in one of the ranges below GE level on the ELM must enroll in the course corresponding to their placement range in the first semester at Sacramento State. During subsequent semesters, students must enroll for the next course in the sequence until college level math is complete.

After passing the ELM exam or the appropriate ELM equivalency courses, check with your major advisor to determine the most appropriate GE math course. You may enroll in MATH 001 for the General Education Quantitative Reasoning requirement (Area B4) or take a Mathematics Department Diagnostic Test as a prerequisite to enrollment in other Mathematics courses. See “Additional Course Placement Examination Requirements.”

ELM Scores*	Preparatory Course Placement
34 or below	→ LS 007A and LS 007B
36 - 42	→ LS 010A
44 - 48	→ LS 010A 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). To take a GE B4 course other than MATH 001, you must also take a Math Department Diagnostic test (see Additional Course Placement Exam 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 register for the EPT and ELM online at: www.csus.edu/testing. Students who have been admitted to Sacramento State may check their EPT and ELM status and placement scores at: www.csus.edu/admrl/appstat.

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 must be taken in the first laboratory period during the first week of the semester.

Mathematics

Brighton Hall 141
(916) 278-6534
www.csus.edu/math/dept

All students enrolling in a course that satisfies the General Education Quantitative Reasoning requirement must satisfy 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 at the beginning of each semester.

*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 at the beginning of each semester.

MATH 030

Students are required to take a test in pre-calculus mathematics. This test can be taken at the beginning of each semester.

Information on each diagnostic exam can be found on the Department of Mathematics and Statistics website (under Students — Diagnostic Exam).

Foreign Language

Mariposa Hall 2051
(916) 278-6333

Sacramento State 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 one year of satisfactory high school study
- 1B - if the student has one year but less than two 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 two but less than three years of high school study
- 2B - if the student has three 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.