

ACCUPLACER



WASHTENAW
LITERACY





Washtenaw Literacy's Mission:

Believing that literacy is the foundation for a sustainable community, Washtenaw Literacy provides literacy support, free of charge, to adults through a network of trained tutors.

It is our **Vision** to eliminate illiteracy in Washtenaw County.



PASSION



DIVERSITY
EQUITY
INCLUSION



INTEGRITY

www.washtenawliteracy.org

734-337-3338

Training Guidelines



This is a self-paced training module.

You may take as much or as little time as you'd like on it, but treat this time as though you were in a class.

- Limit distractions (turn off devices, email notifications, don't engage in side conversations).
- **Be a fully engaged, active learner!**
- Trust the process and plunge into activities.

TUTOR OBJECTIVE

To partner with an adult in pursuing their personal goals by improving their ability to understand, speak, read, and write basic English and do math through customized, research-based tutoring.

Training Objectives



1. Develop skills needed for tutoring adults

- Establish tutoring strategies that support adult learners with ACCUPLACER preparation
- Develop approaches to tackling each section of the ACCUPLACER

2. Build knowledge needed to engage with agency

- List the ACCUPLACER test sections, costs, scoring, and scheduling requirements
- Identify whether the ACCUPLACER is necessary for a learner's goals

3. Align your perspective and expectations with the needs of adult learners

- Recognize the difficulty level of ACCUPLACER test questions
- Express the importance of practice tests

The ACCUPLACER



What is it?

- Diagnostic: A series of tests evaluating students' skills for placement into appropriate college courses
 - ***Not a pass/fail test***
- Adaptive: Customizing test question difficulty for each student so accurate assessment can happen with fewer questions
- Online: Offering instantaneous score reports

ACCUPLACER

CollegeBoard

Where is it used?

- Washtenaw Community College uses the ACCUPLACER to assess Reading Comprehension and Writing Skills for placement into academic classes.
 - ***Not for those seeking GED and Community ESL courses***

Computer skills are essential!

- Using a mouse
- Navigating software/webpages
- Typing skills

Placement Testing at WCC



Reading Comprehension

- The ACCUPLACER

Writing

- The ACCUPLACER + an additional Writing Placement Test

Math

- ALEKS PPL (*Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces Placement, Preparation and Learning*)
 - Arithmetic through Pre-calculus
 - About 30 questions, about 90 minutes

ESL (English as a Second Language)

- CaMLA English Placement Test (EPT)
 - Listening comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension
 - 80 questions: 25 listening, 20 grammar, 20 vocabulary, 15 reading comprehension
 - 60 minutes

How / Where to Take the ACCUPLACER



Remote Testing

- Location
 - At home or another location
- Registration
 - Visit this WCC-supported [website](#) to complete a request form and schedule a test date.
 - The submitted request will automatically be sent to testingcenter@wccnet.edu.
 - A proctor will send instructions and the link for the test date.
- Costs
 - \$30 fee (remote testing only); WCC students can get a voucher to pay for it.
- Requirements
 - Computer with reliable internet access and webcam
 - The ACCUPLACER does not work on Chromebook, tablets, or smartphones.
 - Quiet space

On-Campus Testing (free)

- Location / Registration
 - Go to Student Center Room 300.
 - Contact 734-477-8550 **or** testingcenter@wccnet.edu.
- Photo ID
 - Driver's license or a previous school ID
 - It is also helpful to know the student's WCC @00000000 ID number.

How many times can my learner take it?



There are limits to the number of retakes allowed per year.

- Individuals can test once on their own every 3 months.
- For a second attempt within 3 months, individuals must see Student Welcome Center staff.
 - *Note: A minimum of 24 hours is required before retesting.*
- For a third attempt within three months, individuals must meet with an advisor to discuss their options.

Score Analysis

- Each test score is accompanied by a Skills Insight™ statement.
 - Meaning of the score
 - Areas for improvement in order to achieve a desired score
 - Learners should review this statement carefully to refocus their study strategies and goals.

It's best to fully prepare beforehand with practice tests!

General ACCUPLACER Preparation Strategies



Before the test

- Schedule study time!
- Take enough practice tests to be comfortable with the format and language.
 - Official College Board Practice Tests
 - [Reading](#)
 - [Writing](#)
 - Unofficial Free Practice Tests with Ads
 - *Note: These try to upsell visitors. Warn learners that the extra study guides, online courses, etc., aren't necessary.*
 - [Accuplacer Practice Test.com — Reading](#)
 - [Accuplacer Practice Test.com — Writing](#)
 - [Mometrix Test Preparation — ACCUPLACER](#)
 - [Test-Guide.com – ACCUPLACER](#)
 - [Union Test Prep – ACCUPLACER](#); Must create a free account, but they'll try to upsell.
- Check to see whether eligible for accommodations.
 - May include test format modifications and/or environment adjustments
 - For individuals with an official diagnosis of disability

General ACCUPLACER Preparation Strategies



On the day of the test

- Set aside 1.5-2 hours total for both the Reading Comprehension and Writing Skills tests.
- Take your time.
 - The test is untimed.
 - Triple-check answers!
 - Reread passages!
 - Thoroughly understand questions!
- Read the questions first.
 - This will show what to look for in the passages!
- Eliminate obviously wrong answers before choose the correct answer.
 - This promotes good guesses!
- Relax.
 - Get a good night's sleep!
 - Have a healthy meal!
 - Reduce outside stress as much as possible!

Let's Look at the ACCUPLACER: Reading



Reading Comprehension Skills

- Understanding what is read
- Identifying main ideas
- Making inferences
- Distinguishing between direct statements and supporting ideas

Format

- 20 questions, all multiple choice
- Untimed
- Computer adaptive
 - Questions are based on skill level.
 - The response to each question determines the difficulty level of the next question.

Scoring

- Score range: 200-300
- Individuals who score under 223 are referred to the WCC Adult Transitions Program.

Sample Reading Question



Paris, France, is a city that has long been known as a center of artistic and cultural expression.

In the 1920s, Paris was home to many famous artists and writers from around the world, such as Picasso and Hemingway.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It reinforces the first.
- B. It states an effect.
- C. It draws a conclusion.
- D. It provides a contrast.

Preparing for the Reading Test



Vocabulary

- Remember that vocabulary is the #1 predictor of comprehension!
- Work on vocabulary expansion, word parts, and context clues.

Background Knowledge

- Gain familiarity with possible topics and content of the passages.
- Read a variety of practice passages from varied genres.
- Encourage educational tv, radio, and podcasts.

Practice active reading

- Take notes while reading
- Find topic sentences
- Re-read for understanding

Let's Look at the ACCUPLACER: Writing



Sentence Skills

- Understanding what makes a sentence complete and clear
- Ability to edit and revise passages of text
- Sentence structure
- Word usage
- Punctuation

Format

- 20 questions, all multiple choice
- Untimed
- Computer adaptive
 - Questions are based on skill level.
 - The response to each question determines the difficulty level of the next question.

Scoring

- Score range: 200-300
- Individuals who score under 237 are required to take English 050.

Sample Writing Question



Select the best version of the underlined part of the sentence:

To walk, biking, and driving are Pat's favorite ways of getting around.

- A. To walk, biking, and driving
- B. Walking, biking, and driving
- C. To walk, biking, and to drive
- D. To walk, to bike, and also driving

Sample Writing Question

Rewrite the sentence; your new sentence should have essentially the same meaning as the original sentence.

The band began to play, and then the real party started.

Rewrite, beginning with The real party started

The next words will be:

- A. after the band began
- B. and the band began
- C. although the band began
- D. the band beginning

WCC's Additional Writing Placement Test



In addition to the ACCUPLACER, WCC also uses a Writing Placement Test.

- This is a sample of an individual's on-the-spot writing ability.
- Individuals have a choice between three writing prompts.
 - Choose one.
 - Write an essay response with a minimum three paragraphs.
- A faculty member from WCC's English/College Readiness Department will evaluate the writing sample.

Writing Skills

- Organization
 - Logical order of ideas within and between paragraphs
- Development
 - Overall support of main idea
 - Details, examples, and explanations that show *the who, what, when, where, why, and how* of the ideas
- Language use and mechanics
 - Academic vocabulary, spelling, grammar, punctuation

Preparing for the Writing Test



Practice research-based writing strategies

- Ease learner into writing.
- Use LEAs, cloze exercises, dictated sentences, and written conversations.

Use Word's grammar check

- Help learner identify common writing problems.

Read a variety of texts

- Train learner to recognize clear sentences.

Incorporate casual, stress-free writing into each session

- Develop learner's comfort with writing.
- Use journaling, quick writes, Mad-Libs, story shares, etc.

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RESOURCES & DEEPER LEARNING

- Explore the free [Accuplacer Study App](#)
 - Contains extra practice questions without upselling; sign-up/log-in required
- Practice Basic Writing and Grammar Skills
 - [Every-Day Edits](#)
 - [Grammar.com](#)
 - [Grammar NOW!](#)
- Discover News Articles & Subject Content Online
 - [NewsELA](#)
 - [Voice of America](#)
 - [Reading Skills for Today's Adults](#)
 - [Breaking News English](#)
 - [ReadWorks](#)

HOMework

(on the website: choose one or more)

- Read our Test-Taking Guide
- Quiz
- Share a resource
- Share an idea

Thank you!



Washtenaw Literacy Tutor Training ACCUPLACER Module

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Thank you to Erin Howarth for the content of these slides!

Questions?

Contact Alison at austin@washtenawliteracy.org.