

Date: _____

Time: _____

Room: _____

Suggestions

- Arrive early
- Bring a calculator
- Do your best!
- Know your Social Security Number

Any questions or comments about the SVCC placement policy?

Contact the Counseling Office at 288-5511 ext. 208.

Disability

If you have a disability or suspect that you have one and want to request a classroom accommodation, it is your responsibility to inform your instructor. Reasonable accommodations will be made after verification from the Student Needs Coordinator's Office located in Room 1G24, or by calling extension 246.

Privacy

The college policy on student records complies with the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act." This Act is designed to protect the privacy of education records, to establish the rights of students to inspect and review their education records, and to provide guidelines for correction of incorrect or misleading data through formal and informal hearings. A copy of the Act or questions concerning the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act may be referred to the Dean of Student Services, Ext. 271

Nondiscrimination Statement

SVCC provides equal opportunity and affirmative action in education and employment for qualified persons regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, gender, marital status, disability, military status, or unfavorable discharge from military service. Complaints and inquiries related to this policy or any potential discriminatory concerns may be addressed to: Coordinator of Personnel Services, Sauk Valley Community College, 173 IL, Route 2, Dixon, IL 61021, 815/288-5511.

Placement Guide



We're here to
help you reach
your goals!

Sauk Valley

Community College

173 Illinois Route 2

Dixon, IL 61021

Counseling Office

(815) 288-5511 ext. 208

Sauk Valley Community College is committed to providing students with the greatest chance of success in initial and future coursework. Therefore, SVCC has adopted a placement policy to ensure that students enroll in courses that most accurately reflect their current skills and abilities in English usage, reading and mathematics.

How are students' skills in these areas measured?

Students' skills are measured using one of the following options for placement:

- SVCC Placement Test Results
 - COMPASS Reading, Writing Skills and Mathematics (effective 09/06)
- ACT Scores
 - Individual scores in the areas of English, reading and mathematics
- Review of credit already earned at any accredited college or university including Sauk Valley Community College

What do I need to know about the COMPASS placement tests used by SVCC?

COMPASS is a user friendly, computer adaptive instrument designed for individuals with little or no computer experience. College staff will assist students in getting started. Students will use the mouse or the keyboard to select or highlight their responses. COMPASS tests are not timed.

How will students be able to interpret their placement results using one of the above options?

Students will set up an appointment to meet with a SVCC academic advisor or counselor to interpret results and determine appropriate course placement. Results will place students in either developmental (skill-building) courses or college credit courses (100 level or higher). It is not uncommon for students to enroll in one or more developmental education courses along with, or prior to, college credit courses.

After the Placement test... What's next?

1. REQUEST TRANSCRIPTS

Students must have their *official high school, GED and/or college transcripts sent (not hand-carried) directly from each school to the Office of Admissions and Records.* If transferring college credits to SVCC, complete the *Transcript Evaluation Form* available in the Office of Admissions and Records.

2. APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Students are encouraged to apply for financial aid, scholarships and/or veterans benefits as early as possible. *Applications are available in the Office of Student Financial Assistance (1G12).*

3. SCHEDULE A MEETING WITH A COUNSELOR OR ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Students meet with a counselor or academic advisor to discuss their career plans, review their placement results and select classes for the upcoming semester. *To schedule an appointment, contact the Counseling Office at 288-5511, ext. 208.*

4. REGISTER FOR CLASSES

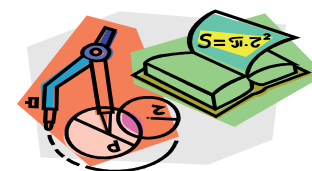
Register for classes through the Office of Admissions and Records. Summer/Fall registration begins in April; Spring registration begins in November.

5. PAY TUITION & FEES

Tuition and fees must be paid through the Business Office (3K10). Forms of payment include cash, check, credit card or apply on-line for the deferred payment plan.

6. BUY BOOKS AND SUPPLIES

Visit the SVCC Bookstore (1K1) to buy textbooks, supplies



**IMPORTANT PHONE EXTENSIONS
AND ROOM NUMBERS**
815-288-5511 Dial 1 then Extension



Office/Service	Extension	Room Number
Admissions and Records	297	1J1
Bookstore	332	1K1
Business (tuition payment)	267	3K10
Corporate and Community Service	212	1C4
Counseling	208	1H2
Financial Assistance	339	1G12
Fitness Center	336	1E1
Information Center	385	1K11
Learning Assistance Center	293	3M6
Learning Resource Center (Library)	247	3L1
Student Support Services	268	1H2
TTD	206	
Veterans Services	420	1G12

Dial “0” (Switchboard) for offices not listed.

Are all students required to satisfy the placement policy?

All degree and certificate seeking students must have one of the placement options completed prior to registration. All other students are required to satisfy the placement policy as determined by the courses in which they plan to enroll including:

- Mathematics courses
- English courses
- College-level courses requiring a specific reading co-requisite or pre-requisite

Exceptions to the placement policy include, but are not limited to, enrollment in Personal & Professional Development (non-credit) courses, continuing education courses, or physical education activity courses.

Will students who have completed the ACT still need to complete the SVCC Placement test?

If students have completed the ACT within the last three years, SVCC will utilize scores in English, reading and mathematics for initial course placement. However, students who have scored below a 20 on the ACT reading test will need to take the reading portion of the SVCC placement test. Students using ACT scores who want to improve their course placement have the option of retesting using the SVCC placement test in one or more areas. The best or highest course recommendations will be used for placement.

Please note that students must provide documentation of their ACT scores if they plan to use the results to satisfy the placement policy.

SVCC PLACEMENT GUIDE

Can students retake the SVCC Placement Test in an attempt to improve their scores?

Students may attempt the SVCC Placement up to two times per calendar year with a recommended minimum of 48 hours between the first and second attempts. The highest score is used for placement. Test scores are good for three years. Prior to taking their first English or reading course, students have the option of retesting in these areas only through the registration change period. Students currently enrolled in a mathematics course may retest only during the registration change period to improve their scores.

If students have attended another college/university, do they need to satisfy the Placement Policy?

Students who have successfully earned reading-intensive college-level credits that may be transferred to SVCC from other accredited institutions and/or students who currently hold an Associate, Bachelors or higher level college degree may be exempt from the reading placement policy. Students still need to satisfy the placement policy if enrolling in English or math courses.

If students have taken courses at another college or university, they are strongly encouraged to first meet with an academic advisor or counselor to determine if further placement testing is required. Placement requirements will vary depending on the courses students have completed, the number of credit hours accumulated and individual course grades. Students should bring an unofficial transcript or their grade reports when meeting with an academic advisor or counselor.

Please note that students will need to have an official transcript sent to the Office of Admissions and Records at SVCC. A hand-delivered copy is not acceptable. Students will also need to complete a "Transcript Evaluation Form" available in the Office of Admissions

Mathematics Placement Test

Students must enroll in an initial math course as designated by their placement scores (see chart below) or satisfy the individual course prerequisites.

Note: High School transcripts may be needed to enroll in college level math courses.

COMPASS & ACT/MATHEMATICS

Compass Score Range	ACT Math Scores	Placement
College Algebra 59-100 & Trigonometry 46-100	26-36 & 4 years of college preparatory high school mathematics with grades of "C" or higher (including trigonometry)	MAT 203
College Algebra 46-58 & Trigonometry 0-45	23-25	MAT 122 MAT 220 MAT 221 MAT 240
Algebra 42-100 College Algebra 0-45 and geometry*	21-22 and geometry*	MAT 110 MAT 115 MAT 121
Algebra 30-41	18-20	MAT 076 MAT 080 MAT 106
Pre-Algebra 34-100 and Algebra 17-29	16-17	MAT 074
Pre Algebra 25--33 Algebra 0-16	13-15	MAT 072
Pre-Algebra 0-24	0-12	MAT 070

*High School geometry with a C or better in both semesters
or MAT 076 with a grade of C or better.

SVCC PLACEMENT GUIDE

Writing Placement Test

Students are required to enroll in the composition course determined by one of the following valid placement tools: SVCC COMPASS or ACT. If a student has taken both the COMPASS and ACT, either score can be used for placement.

--Students have through the late registration period (of the semester in which they will take their first writing course) to retest one time.

COMPASS/WRITING SKILLS

Skill Area	Test Score	Course Placement
Writing	70-100	ENG 101
	38-69	ENG 099
	0-37	ENG 091

ACT/WRITING

Skill Area	English Test Score	Course Placement
Writing	20 or higher	ENG 101
	14 – 19	ENG 099
	0 – 13	ENG 091

Reading Placement Test

Students with ACT reading scores below the specified level and students without valid ACT scores will be required to take the SVCC COMPASS Reading Placement Test . Placement in a reading course is determined by established cut-offs (see charts below). If students place in a developmental reading course, it must be taken concurrently with ANY college level course(s) unless it is exempted from the reading co-requisite. Students must remain enrolled in the developmental reading program until they can demonstrate college-level reading skills on a exit exam given at the end of each semester.

-Students have through the late registration period (of the semester in which they will take their first reading course) to retest one time.

ACT/READING

Skill Area	Reading Test Scores	Course Placement
Reading	20 or higher	No Reading course needed

COMPASS/READING

Test Scores	Course Placement
77-100	No Reading Course needed
41-76	RDG 098
0 – 40	RDG 095

Can students fail the placement test?

No, the placement test is NOT pass-fail; its purpose is to assist in appropriate COURSE SELECTION.

What accommodations are available for students with learning differences (disabilities)?

Students will need to provide documentation of their learning differences and will be accommodated on an individual basis. Students should make an appointment with the Coordinator of Student Needs at 288-5511 ext. 246 *prior to* placement and/or enrollment.

If I place into developmental courses will they count toward graduation?

No, these courses do not count toward graduation nor do they transfer or count in calculating grade point average. The purpose of developmental courses is to build academic skills in reading, English (writing), and math. Developmental courses are identified by course numbers below 100 (i.e. ENG 099, MAT 072). The number of developmental courses required may vary depending on placement results.

When are students required to take developmental courses?

READING: If a student places into a developmental reading course, the reading class must be taken concurrently with ANY college-level course(s) unless it is exempted from the reading co-requisite. A list of exempt courses may be found in the SVCC class schedule and at <http://www.svcc.edu/UserMenu/potential/exempt.html>. Students must remain enrolled in the developmental reading program until they can demonstrate college-level reading skills on a standardized exit exam given at the end of each course.

When are students required to take developmental courses (continued)?

ENGLISH:

When students choose to take their first English (writing) courses, they must enroll in the English courses as designated by their valid (within three years) placement scores. Students must earn a grade of "C" or higher to progress to the next level. Students enrolled in developmental courses must demonstrate college-level writing skills on an exit exam in ENG 099 to progress to ENG 101.

MATHEMATICS:

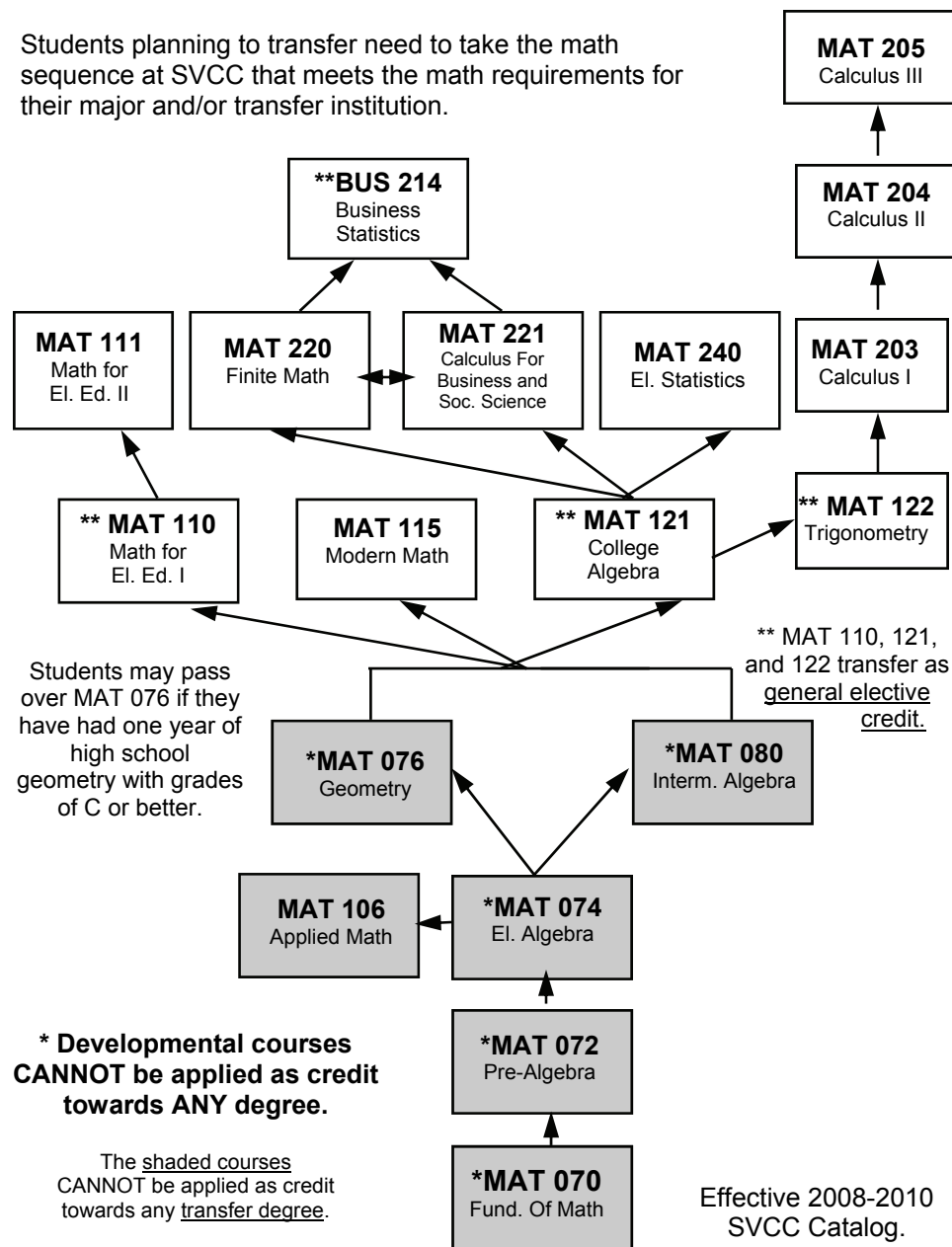
When students choose to take their first math courses, they must enroll in the math courses as designated by their valid (within three years) placement scores or satisfy individual course prerequisites. Students must earn a grade of "C" or higher to progress to the next level. All students enrolled in developmental algebra courses must demonstrate proficiency with algebra subject matter at the conclusion of MAT 080 to progress to college-level math. Based on high school transcript, some students may have the option of completing an alternate test to satisfy the geometry pre-requisite for college level courses.

How do students begin the SVCC placement process?

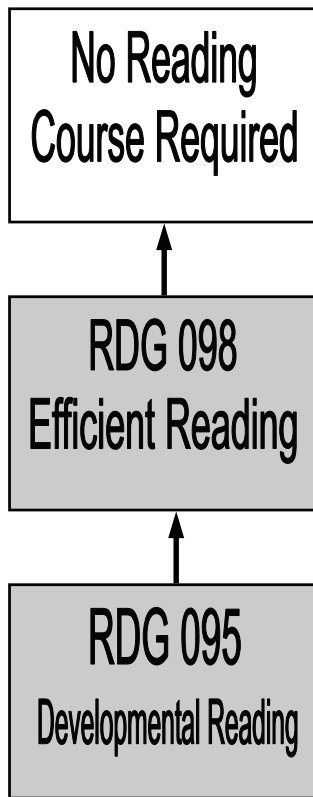
Students need to contact the Counseling Office at 288-5511 ext. 208 to set up a specific appointment time to complete the SVCC placement test. This placement test takes, on average, two hours to complete. Day and evening times are available throughout the week. Although review/preparation for the placement test is not necessary, students may wish to use the materials provided in this booklet or contact the Learning Assistance Center 288-5511 ext. 293 for more in-depth subject review. *It is recommended that students use a calculator on the mathematics portion of the placement test, but it is not required.*

SVCC MATH MAP

Students planning to transfer need to take the math sequence at SVCC that meets the math requirements for their major and/or transfer institution.



SVCC READING MAP



Students should expect to repeat these courses as necessary until they have achieved college-level reading skills.

ALL reading courses are developmental and CANNOT be applied as credit towards any degree.

Effective 2008-2010 SVCC Catalog.

COMPASS WRITING SKILLS PLACEMENT TEST

This test asks students to find and correct errors in essays presented on the computer screen. The test items include the following content categories:

Usage/Mechanics

- Punctuation
- Basic grammar and usage
- Sentence structure

Rhetorical Skills

- Strategy
- Organization
- Style

Examinees are presented with an essay similar to the one below and are asked to look for errors in grammar, punctuation, usage, and style. When examinees find what they believe to be errors, they move the mouse pointer to the appropriate part of the text and click the mouse. On the right side of the screen five options appear for revising that area of text. Note that the first option is always identical to the original wording in the text, and thus represents a NO CHANGE option. Examinees can choose to revise any section of the essay. After revising the essay, examinees are routed to two items focusing on rhetorical strategies.

The essay below contains the same number and types of errors that an actual Writing Skills Test unit would contain; however, for demonstration purposes, only a handful of the segments below have been selected for revision. These segments are indicated by bold type, and the items associated with them are shown below. (Note: There are additional errors in the essay

An increasing number of lakes and rivers in the northern United States invaded are being by a mussel no larger than a fingernail.

The zebra mussel probably steamed aboard a transatlantic ship sometime in the mid-1980s from the Caspian Sea into U.S. waters. Despite its growth was explosive, partly because the species **was preyed upon by very few native predators in its new environment**. As a consequence, the zebra mussels did find a plentiful food supply. They eat huge amounts of phytoplankton, which tiny free-floating sea organisms that dwell in water. **Scientists are concerned when the mussels** may compete aggressively with other species that depend on the same food supply.

Others concerned by the invading species are industry, public utilities, and boat owners. Zebra mussels cluster in huge colonies, being anchored themselves to any hard surface. These colonies can clog your water intake pipes of electric and water treatment plants. Fishery specialists are currently casting about and baiting their hooks to gun down control methods that will cause the lowest amount of damage to water supplies and other aquatic species. Two of the alternatives exploring are interrupting the species reproductive cycle and finding a bacterium harmful only to zebra mussels. *(End of Essay)*

(next page for sample writing skills questions and answers)

(Basic Grammar and Usage: Ensuring Grammatical Agreement)

Segment 1

- A. An increasing number of lakes and rivers
- B. An increasingly number of lakes and rivers
- C. A number increasing of lakes and rivers
- D. A number increasingly of lakes and rivers
- E. An increasing of lakes and rivers

(Style: Avoiding Redundancy)

Segment 2

- A. was preyed upon by very few native predators in its new environment.
- B. found very few predators in its new environment.
- C. found very few native predators and was seldom eaten in its new environment.
- D. was preyed on by very few native predator species in its new environment.
- E. was seldom eaten or preyed on by native predator species in its new environment.

(Sentence Structure: Relating Clauses)

Segment 3

- A. Scientists are concerned when the mussels
- B. Scientists are concerned that if the mussels
- C. Scientists are concerned wherein the mussels
- D. Scientists are concerned that the mussels
- E. Scientists are concerned as if the mussels

(Strategy: Making Decisions about Cohesive Devices)

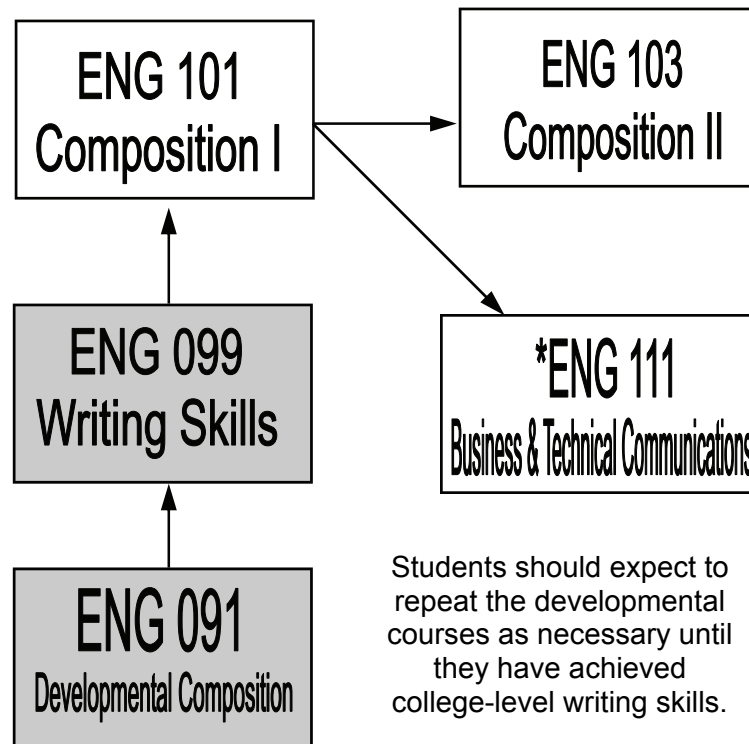
Item 4 (end-of-passage)

The writer wishes to add a sentence at the end of Paragraph 1 that will serve as a transition between Paragraphs 1 and 2 and will establish the main focus of the essay. Which of the following sentences most effectively fulfills that purpose?

- A. The zebra mussel will provide a difficult challenge for public utility managers.
- B. The zebra mussel is only the latest in a series of newly introduced species to thrive in the U.S.
- C. No one knows how far south and west the zebra mussel is likely to spread, but scientists think they may be on the trail of important clues.
- D. Although small in size, the zebra mussel may become a huge problem for pleasure boat owners in North American waterways.
- E. Despite its size, however, the zebra mussel may have a dramatic effect on North American waterways.

Answers: 1. A 2. B 3. D 4. E

SVCC WRITING MAP



Students should expect to repeat the developmental courses as necessary until they have achieved college-level writing skills.

The shaded courses are developmental and CANNOT be applied as credit towards any associate degree.

* ENG 111 can be used as elective credit towards a transfer degree.

Effective 2008-2010 SVCC Catalog.

COMPASS READING PLACEMENT TEST

Five types of reading comprehension passages are included:

- Practical Reading
- Prose Fiction
- Humanities
- Social Sciences
- Natural Sciences

Items have multiple-choice response options.

Sample Humanities Passage: COMPASS Reading Test

When I'm in New York but feeling lonely for Wyoming I look for the Western movie ads in the subway. But the men I see in those posters with their stern, humorless looks remind me of no one I know in the West. In our earnestness to romanticize the cowboy we've ironically disesteemed his true character. If he's "strong and silent" it's because there's probably no one to talk to. If he "rides away into the sunset" it's because he's been on horseback since four in the morning moving cattle and he's trying, fifteen hours later, to get home to his family. If he's "a rugged individualist" he's also part of a team: ranch work is teamwork and even the glorified open-range cowboys of the 1880s rode up and down the Chisholm Trail in the company of twenty or thirty other riders. It's not toughness but "toughing it out" that counts. In other words, this macho, cultural artifact the cowboy has become is simply a man who possesses resilience, patience, and an instinct for survival. "Cowboys are just like a pile of rocks—everything happens to them. They get climbed on, kicked, rained and snowed on, scuffed up by the wind. Their job is 'just to take it,'" one old-timer told me. Adapted from Gretel Ehrlich, *The Solace of Open Spaces*. ©1985 by Gretel Ehrlich.

(Referring)

1. According to the passage, cowboys are probably "strong and silent" because:
- A. their work leaves them no time for conversation.
 - B. they have been cautioned not to complain.
 - C. they are stern and humorless.
 - D. there is no one nearby to listen to them.
 - E. their work makes them too tired to talk.

(Reasoning)

2. For which of the following statements does the passage give apparently contradictory evidence?
- A. The cowboy's work takes endurance.
 - B. Cowboys work alone.
 - C. Cowboys are adequately paid.
 - D. The cowboy's image has become romanticized in American culture.
 - E. Cowboys think of themselves as humorless.

COLLEGE ALGEBRA

(Functions)

1. If $f(4) = 0$ and $f(6) = 6$, which of the following could represent $f(x)$?
- A. $2/3x - 4$
 - B. $x + 2$
 - C. $x - 4$
 - D. $3/2x + 6$
 - E. $3x - 12$

(Complex Numbers)

2. For $i = \sqrt{-1}$ if $3i(2 + 5i) = x + 6i$, then $x = ?$
- A. -15
 - B. 5
 - C. $5i$
 - D. $15i$
 - E. $27i$

Answers:

1. E 2. A

COMPASS MATHEMATICS PLACEMENT TEST

Multiple-choice items in the following mathematics placement areas (numerical skills/pre-algebra, algebra, college algebra) test the following:

- **basic skills**—performing a sequence of basic operations
- **application**—applying sequences of basic operations to novel settings or in complex ways
- **analysis**—demonstrating conceptual understanding of principles and relationships in mathematical operations

Students may use a calculator, but it is not required.

To help potential SVCC students prepare for the COMPASS mathematics test, a series of practice tests are available at mathprep.svcc.edu. Click on Sauk Valley Community College. Then select Sauk Open Enrollment. Set up a User ID and password (Create a New Account — active e-mail address required). Check listed e-mail and click on provided link. Again, click on Sauk Valley Community College and then select Sauk Open Enrollment. Select Yes to enroll in this course. Practice tests are currently available in Pre-Algebra, Elementary Algebra, Geometry, Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra and Trigonometry.

Sample Questions

NUMERICAL SKILLS/PRE-ALGEBRA

(Averages: Means, Medians, and Modes)

1. What is the average (arithmetic mean) of 8, 7, 7, 5, 3, 2, and 2?
A. $3 \frac{4}{7}$
B. $4 \frac{5}{6}$
C. $4 \frac{6}{7}$
D. 5
E. $6 \frac{4}{5}$

Answer: 1. C

ALGEBRA

(Elementary Algebra: Linear Equations in One Variable)

1. A student has earned scores of 87, 81, and 88 on the first 3 of 4 tests. If the student wants an average (arithmetic mean) of exactly 87, what score must she earn on the fourth test?
A. 85
B. 86
C. 87
D. 92
E. 93

(Elementary Algebra: Basic Operations with Polynomials)

2. Which of the following expressions represents the product of 3 less than twice x and 2 more than the quantity 3 times x ?
A. $-6x^2 + 25x + 6$
B. $6x^2 + 5x + 6$
C. $6x^2 - 5x + 6$
D. $6x^2 - 5x - 6$
E. $6x^2 - 13x - 6$

Answers:

1. D 2. D