



# **SVCC PLACEMENT GUIDE**

**Testing Center • 815.835.6530**

**Admissions & Records • 815.835.6273**

**Academic Advising • 815.835.6354**

**Business Office • 815.835.6295**

**Disability Support Services • 815.835.6220**

**SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**173 IL ROUTE 2 • DIXON, IL • 61021**

## MULTIPLE PLACEMENT MEASURES

Sauk Valley Community College is committed to placing students in courses that correspond with their ability level to provide each student with the greatest chance of success in those classes and future course work. The key to accomplishing this goal is a multiple-measure placement structure that offers students a variety of means to demonstrate college readiness.

Students' skills are measured using the following options (each valid measure on file is looked at independently):

1. **ACT Scores**; Individual score in English and/or Individual score in Mathematics
2. **SAT Scores**; Evidence Based Reading/Writing and/or Math score.
3. **Review of College Credit**; Already earned at any accredited college or university including Sauk Valley Community College.
4. **Review of High School Transcripts**; Individual Class Grades and/or State Approved Transitional Classes.
5. **GED Score**; Reasoning Through Language Arts and/or Mathematical Reasoning.

**SVCC placement test scores** are used if none of the above are available or if they are not valid. Students who have valid placement measure(s) available and who want to improve their course placement, have the option of testing using the SVCC placement tests in one or more areas. The best or highest course level will be used for placement.

6. **SVCC Placement Test Scores**; Accuplacer Math and/or Accuplacer Reading and WritePlacer where required.

## UNDERSTANDING PLACEMENT

Students are strongly encouraged to first meet with an Admissions Representative or Academic Advisor to determine if placement testing is required or recommended. Placement requirements will vary depending on the courses students have completed (high school or college), individual course grades, and records SVCC has on file. All available valid placement measures will be evaluated. The highest placement will be used.

Students must provide documentation of their ACT, SAT, GED scores, and college or high school transcripts if they plan to use the results to satisfy SVCC Placement Policy. Students will need to have official documentation sent to Admissions & Records. Students with earned college credits will also need to complete a "Transcript Evaluation Form" available through Admissions & Records.

**English:** When students choose to take their first English/Language Arts course or a course that requires a specific English/Language Arts preparedness standard, they can enroll in the English/Language Arts course as designated by their highest valid placement option. Students must earn a passing grade of "C" or better to progress to the next level.

**Math:** When students choose to take their first math course, they must enroll in the math course as designated by their highest valid placement option. Students must earn a passing grade of "C" or better to progress to the next level.

**Please note: Some courses that are recommended or required based on placement results may be developmental in nature and offer no academic credit.**

## TEST SCORE VALIDITY TIMEFRAME

Test scores expire at various rates. See the table below to determine how long particular scores are valid.

Test Score Validity Timeframe	
High School Course Completion	3 Years*
High School Unweighted Final CGPA	3 Years
College Course Completion	No expiration
ACT	3 Years
SAT	3 Years
Accuplacer (English)	3 Years
Accuplacer (Math)	3 Years
GED Scores	3 Years
Transitional Math	18 Months**

\*High school coursework may be used to fulfill prerequisites in mathematics if no more than three years have passed between high school graduation and college registration; if more than 3 years have passed, it is expected that students will retest.

\*\*From high school graduation to enrollment.

### ACCUPLACER RETAKE OPTIONS

If a student chooses to retake an Accuplacer exam they must first pay a re-test fee of \$15, in the Testing Center or Business Office. This fee will only be waived if it has been 3 years since the student last tested and their original scores are no longer valid. The student can only retake the exam one time per calendar year.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Students will need to provide qualifying documentation to be considered for accommodated testing. Each case will be evaluated on an individual basis. Students should make an appointment with the Director of Disability Support Services (DSS) at (815) 835-6220 prior to scheduling placement testing and/or enrollment.

# GETTING STARTED WITH ACCUPLACER

- 1. Complete an SVCC Student Information Form** and obtain your SVCC Student ID Number. Forms are available at the College and on the College website at [svcc.edu/apply](http://svcc.edu/apply) [Apply Now].
- 2. Determine Placement**

Meet with an Admissions Specialist or Academic Advisor to discuss placement testing requirements. Course placement for English and math is determined through multiple valid measures including: ACT scores, SAT scores, GED Scores, high school transcripts and/or college transcripts; send official transcripts to Admissions & Records. Accuplacer placement test scores are used if the above are not available, valid, or student is attempting to improve placement options.
- 3. Prepare. Get the Study App!**

Visit [studentportal.accuplacer.org](http://studentportal.accuplacer.org) to download your FREE practice app and to access sample math, reading comprehension questions, and sample English writing prompts.
- 4. Schedule Your Appointment**

Contact the Testing Center by calling (815)835-6530 or by emailing [testing@svcc.edu](mailto:testing@svcc.edu) to schedule an appointment.
- 5. Take the Placement Exam/s**

A valid photo ID must be presented before taking a test. There are no time-limit restrictions when taking Placement tests. A calculator is embedded in the Math Placement Test. No other calculators or electronic devices are allowed during testing. Score reports are generated immediately upon completion. The 1st attempt is free. One retake is allowed. If eligible, a \$15 retake fee must be paid in the Testing Center or Business Services prior to 2nd attempt.
- 6. Access Your Score Report**

Use the Accuplacer student portal to view and/or print your score report.

## ACCUPLACER MATH

The Accuplacer Math placement tests consist of 20 computer-generated multiple-choice questions. Accuplacer uses computer-adaptive technology, which means the math problems are selected based on your skill level. Your response to each question determines the difficulty level of the next question, so it is important to give each question careful consideration before selecting your answer. There are 3 possible exams of increasing difficulty:

1. Arithmetic
2. Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra and Statistics (QAS)
3. Advanced Algebra and Functions (AAF)

If you have taken a year of Algebra, you will begin with the QAS exam. Otherwise, you will begin with the Arithmetic exam. In either case, depending on results, you may move on to the next exam.

## ACCUPLACER READING/WRITEPLACER

The Accuplacer Reading test consists of 20 questions using broad-spectrum computer-adaptive technology in multiple choice format. The test evaluates your ability to derive meaning from a range of prose texts and your ability to determine the meaning of words and phrases in short and extended contexts. Scores at or above 237 will require the WritePlacer test to determine course placement.

The Accuplacer WritePlacer test involves writing a 300-600-word essay in response to an opinion-based prompt. Your score is based on your ability to express, organize, support your opinions/ideas, and grammatical writing skills through your response to the writing prompt.

**Sample Writing Prompt:** *Are we free to make our own decisions or are we limited limited in the choices we can make?*

Visit [studentportal.accuplacer.org](http://studentportal.accuplacer.org) to get your FREE practice app and access sample math questions, sample Reading, and/WritePlacer writing prompts.

## WHAT TO DO AFTER YOU TAKE YOUR PLACEMENT EXAMS

### 1. Access Your Score Report

Use the Accuplacer student portal to view and print your score report.

### 2. Apply for Financial Assistance

Students are encouraged to apply for financial aid, scholarships and/or veterans benefits as early as possible. Contact Financial Assistance at (815)835-6339 or visit [svcc.edu/finaid](http://svcc.edu/finaid).

### 3. Schedule a Meeting With an Academic Advisor

Students meet with an academic advisor to discuss career plans, review their placement options, and select classes for the upcoming semester. To schedule an appointment, call (815)835-6354 or visit [svcc.edu/appointment](http://svcc.edu/appointment).

### 4. Register for Classes

Contact Admissions & Records Staff at (815)835-6297 for enrollment assistance. Students should review the “New Student Checklist” at [svcc.edu/students/future/get-started](http://svcc.edu/students/future/get-started).

### 5. Pay Tuition & Fees

Students may pay Tuition and Fees through the Business Office by check, credit card, or other payment options online at [svcc.edu/students/business-office/payment-options](http://svcc.edu/students/business-office/payment-options). For additional information, call 815-835-6267\*

\*Students granted financial aid should contact Financial Assistance at 815-835-6339 before making payments.

### 6. Attend New Student Orientation

### 7. Buy Books and Supplies

Purchase textbooks and supplies at [svcc.edu/bookstore](http://svcc.edu/bookstore) or on campus at SVCC Bookstore located on First Floor. Call (815)835-6304 for further information.

## **Disability**

Disability Support coordinates needed accommodations of students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations will be made after verification is completed by Program Director of Disability Support located in Student Services Center Room 1F21. Call 815.835.6220 or submit a student self-referral form at [svcc.edu/disability-support](http://svcc.edu/disability-support) to request services.

## **Privacy**

The college policy on student records complies with the “Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.” This Act was 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. For a copy of the Act or questions concerning the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, contact the Registrar in the Student Services Center 815.835.6378.

## **Nondiscrimina. on 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: Director of Human Resources, Sauk Valley Community College, 173 IL, Route 2, Dixon, IL 61021, 815.835.6291.

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*Sauk Valley Community College is dedicated to teaching and scholarship while engaging the community in lifelong learning, public service, and economic development.*



*Sauk makes it possible – You make it happen*