• Bring a photo ID
• Arrive early for your appointment
• Know your SVCC Student ID Number
• Know your ALEKS log in information
• Take your time and do your best!

Contact the Testing Center at
(815)835-6530
for additional questions

Disability
If you have a disability or suspect that you have one and want to request a classroom or testing accommodation, it is your responsibility to contact the Disability Support Office. Reasonable accommodations will be made after verification from the Coordinator of Disability Support located in Room 1F21 in the Student Services Center, or by calling (815)835-6220.

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 Registrar, in the Student Services Center (815)835-6378.

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: Director of Human Resources, Sauk Valley Community College, 173 IL, Route 2, Dixon, IL 61021, (815)835-6291.

We're here to help you reach your goals!

Sauk Valley
Community College
173 Illinois Route 2
Dixon, IL 61021

Testing Center
(815)835-6530
Academic Advising
(815)835-6354
Sauk Valley Community College is committed to placing students in courses that correspond with their ability level in order 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):

- SVCC Placement Test Results
  - WritePlacer (English)
  - ALEKS (Math)
- ACT Scores
  - Individual score in English and/or
  - Individual score in Mathematics
- SAT Scores
  - Evidence Based Reading/Writing score and/or
  - Math score
- Review of credit already earned at any accredited college or university including Sauk Valley Community College (credit for prior experience is also considered)
- Review of high school transcripts
- GED composite score

Approved, valid results are required of all students wishing to register for any English/language arts course, mathematics course, or any other college course requiring a specific co-requisite or prerequisite.

**Writing:** 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 (within three years) placement option. Students must earn a passing grade of “C” or better to progress to the next level.

**Mathematics:** When students choose to take their first math course, they must enroll in the math course as designated by their highest, valid (within two or three years) placement option. Students must earn a passing grade of “C” or better to progress to the next level.

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**WHAT TO DO AFTER YOU TAKE YOUR PLACEMENT EXAMS**

1. **Request Transcripts**
   Students should have their official high school, GED and/or college transcripts sent directly to the Admissions & Records. If transferring college credits to SVCC, complete the Transcript Evaluation Form available in Admissions and Records (Student Services Center) or on the SVCC Website.

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 Student Services (1G12).

3. **Schedule a Meeting With an Academic Advisor**
   Students meet with an academic advisor to discuss their career plans, review their placement results and select classes for the upcoming semester. To schedule an appointment, call (815)835-6354 or use the SVCC Website.

4. **Register for Classes**
   Register for classes through the Admissions & Records in the Student Service Center. Contact the Admissions & Records at (815)835-6297 for registration dates and times.

5. **Pay Tuition & Fees**
   Tuition and fees may be paid by cash, check, credit card or apply online for the deferred payment plan on the SVCC Website.

6. **Attend New Student Orientation**

7. **Buy Books and Supplies**
   Visit the SVCC Bookstore (First Floor) to buy textbooks, supplies and other important items.
WHAT TO DO BEFORE EXAM DAY

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/soar [Apply to Sauk].
   Students can obtain their student ID number either by mail, looking up ID in SOAR, or by meeting with an Enrollment Specialist (Student Service Center).

2. Learn About SVCC Program/Class Information
   Meet with an enrollment specialist to learn about SVCC offerings and obtain placement testing recommendations.

3. Prep for the ALEKS Math Placement Exam
   Visit svcc.edu/aleks and click the link to create your ALEKS account and to take your practice ALEKS exam. Use the ALEKS Prep & Learning module to review.

4. Prep for the WritePlacer English Placement Exam
   Visit svcc.edu/accuplacer to access sample exam questions and a free practice app.

5. Schedule Your Appointment
   Call the Testing Center at (815)835-6530 to schedule your appointment. If you are taking both ALEKS math and WritePlacer English exams, allow a minimum of 3 hours.

WHAT TO DO ON EXAM DAY

- **Items to Bring to Your Appointment**
  - Photo ID, student ID number, ALEKS login info, and receipt if retesting

- **Items That Will be Provided by the Testing Center**
  - Scratch paper, pencils and built-in calculator

- **Items to Store While Testing**
  - All electronic devices, food, drinks, coats, bags, etc.

- **Arrive on Time for Your Appointment**
  - To ensure you have enough time to complete your exam, arrive on time for your scheduled appointment

Please note: Some courses that are recommended or required based on placement results may be developmental in nature and offer no academic credit. Students should expect to repeat developmental courses as necessary until they have achieved college level skills.

Will students who have completed the ACT or SAT still need to complete the SVCC Placement tests?
If students have completed the ACT or SAT within the last three years, SVCC can utilize those scores in writing and/or mathematics for initial course placement. However, students using ACT or SAT scores who want to improve their course placement have the option of retesting using the SVCC placement tests in one or more areas. The best or highest course recommendations will be used for placement.

If students have attended another college/university, do they need to satisfy the Placement Policy?
Students who have successfully earned college-level credits that may be transferred to SVCC from other accredited institutions and/or students who currently hold an Associate, Bachelor’s or higher level college degree may be exempt from the placement policy.

If students have taken courses at another college or university, they are strongly encouraged to first meet with an academic advisor 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.

Please note that students must provide documentation of their ACT, SAT, GED scores or high school transcripts if they plan to use the results to satisfy the placement policy. Students will need to have official documentation sent to Admissions & Records at SVCC (Student Services Center). Students with earned college credits will also need to complete a “Transcript Evaluation Form” available in Admissions & Records (Student Services Center).
What accommodations are available for students with learning 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 DSO Coordinator at (815)835-6246 prior to placement and/or enrollment.

How do I know if my test scores are still valid?
Test scores expire at various rates. See the table below to determine how long particular scores are valid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Score Validity Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School Course Completion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Course Completion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WritePlacer (English)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALEKS (math)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* High school coursework may be used to fulfill prerequisites in mathematics if at most 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.

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 English/language arts and math. Developmental courses are identified by course numbers below 100 (i.e. ELA 099, MAT 070). The number of developmental courses required may vary depending on placement results.

SVCC PLACEMENT GUIDE

Mathematics Placement
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALEKS Scores</th>
<th>ACT Math Scores</th>
<th>SAT Math Scores</th>
<th>Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>76-100</td>
<td>26-36 &amp; 4 years of college preparatory high school mathematics or Math 3 with grades of &quot;C&quot; or higher (including trigonometry)</td>
<td>600-800 &amp; 4 years of college preparatory high school mathematics or Math 3 with grades of &quot;C&quot; or higher (including trigonometry)</td>
<td>MAT 203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61-75</td>
<td>24-25 AND Geometry*</td>
<td>580 AND Geometry*</td>
<td>MAT 122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61-75</td>
<td>24-25 AND Geometry*</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>MAT 220 MAT 221 MAT 230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-60</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>MAT 240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-60</td>
<td>23 AND Geometry*</td>
<td>560 AND Geometry*</td>
<td>MAT 121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-60</td>
<td>21-22 AND Geometry*</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>MAT 115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-60</td>
<td>21-22 AND Geometry*</td>
<td>560 AND Geometry*</td>
<td>MAT 110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-45</td>
<td>18-22 N/A</td>
<td>MAT 076 MAT 081</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-45</td>
<td>18-20</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>MAT 106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-29</td>
<td>13-17 N/A</td>
<td>MAT 075</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-13</td>
<td>0-12 N/A</td>
<td>MAT 070</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

English Placement
Students are required to enroll in the English/language arts course determined by one of the following valid placement tools: SVCC WritePlacer, ACT, or SAT. If a student has taken multiple approved placement tests, any score can be used for placement.

WritePlacer, ACT & SAT English Placement Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Course Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SVCC WritePlacer</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>ENG 101</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ENG 101 (w/ELA 090)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>ELA 099</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>ELA 095</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Course Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACT Writing</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 or higher</td>
<td>ENG 101</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>ENG 101 (w/ELA 090)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16–21</td>
<td>ELA 099</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0–15</td>
<td>ELA 095</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Course Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAT Evidence Based Reading/Writing</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>520 or higher</td>
<td>ENG 101</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>481-519</td>
<td>ENG 101 (w/ELA 090)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>420-480</td>
<td>ELA 099</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>419 or less</td>
<td>ELA 095</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When are students required to take developmental courses?
When students choose to enroll in their first courses, they must satisfy individual course co-requisites or prerequisites. Based on high school transcript, some students may have the option of completing an alternate test to satisfy the geometry prerequisite for some college level courses.

ALEKS MATH PLACEMENT INFORMATION

What do I need to know about the ALEKS placement test used by SVCC?
The ALEKS is an adaptive test with up to 30 questions and generally takes 2 hours to complete. ALEKS consists of three parts:

- A required initial practice assessment that can be taken from the comfort of your own home
- Access to two Placement Assessments (Initial and retest, if desired), proctored at Sauk Valley Community College count as your actual placement
- The Prep and Learning Module, an individualized, self-paced online review

The ALEKS practice exam can be accessed through the SVCC Testing Center website or directly at svcc.edu/aleks.

How do students begin the ALEKS placement process?
Students must first apply to SVCC, and obtain their student ID number. Once they have an ID number, they can create an ALEKS account at svcc.edu/aleks. They will take a pre-test to see where they place. At this point, they can use the Prep & Learning module and brush up on the categories where they are lacking or come to the Testing Center and take their proctored placement test.
ALEKS Continued

Can students retake the ALEKS placement test in an attempt to improve their scores?
Yes, 3 hours of remediation in the Prep and Learning Modules is required, prior to retaking the exam. A retest can be taken once in the calendar year from the first attempt.

What are re-test fees?
If a student chooses to retake the ALEKS math exam, they must first pay a re-test fee of $15 in the Business Office. This fee will only be waived if it has been 2 years since the student last tested and their original scores are no longer valid. The student can only attempt this exam two times per calendar year.

Math

**MAT 110**
Math for El. Ed. I

**MAT 115**
Modern Math

**MAT 121++**
College Algebra

**MAT 075+**
Beginning Algebra

**MAT 076**
Geometry

**MAT 081+**
Intermediate Algebra

**MAT 070+**
Fund. Of Math

**MAT 111**
Math for El. Ed. II

**MAT 220**
Finite Math

**MAT 221**
Calculus For Business and Soc. Science

**MAT 230**
Discrete Mathematics

**MAT 231**
Linear Algebra

**MAT 204**
Calculus II

**MAT 203**
Calculus I

**MAT 205**
Calculus III

**MAT 211**
Differential Equations

**MAT 214**
Business Statistics

**MAT 220**
Finite Math

**MAT 230**
Discrete Mathematics

**MAT 231**
Linear Algebra

**MAT 240+**
El. Statistics

**MAT 211**
Differential Equations

**MAT 214**
Business Statistics

**MAT 220**
Finite Math

**MAT 221**
Calculus For Business and Soc. Science

**MAT 230**
Discrete Mathematics

**MAT 231**
Linear Algebra

**MAT 204**
Calculus II

**MAT 203**
Calculus I

**MAT 205**
Calculus III

**MAT 211**
Differential Equations

**MAT 214**
Business Statistics

**MAT 220**
Finite Math

**MAT 221**
Calculus For Business and Soc. Science

**MAT 230**
Discrete Mathematics

**MAT 231**
Linear Algebra

**MAT 204**
Calculus II

**MAT 203**
Calculus I

**MAT 205**
Calculus III

If the college level class requires Geometry, students may pass over MAT 076 if they have had one year of high school geometry with grades of C or better or appropriate placement scores.

* Developmental courses CANNOT be applied as credit towards ANY degree.

The shaded courses CANNOT be applied as credit towards any transfer degree.
What do I need to know about the WritePlacer English placement test used by SVCC?
WritePlacer prompts will ask you to draw on a broad range of experiences, learning and ideas to support their point of view on the issue in question. Your essay will be given a holistic score that represents how clearly and effectively you expressed your position. It will consider your purpose and focus, organization and structure, development and support, sentence variety and style, mechanical conventions, and critical thinking.

How do students begin WritePlacer English placement process?
Students must first apply to SVCC, and obtain their student ID number. Once they obtain this number, they can schedule an exam time with the SVCC Testing Center. They will need to bring their SVCC ID number along with a Photo ID to their scheduled appointment.

Can students retake the WritePlacer English placement test in an attempt to improve their scores?
Yes, a retest can be taken once in the calendar year from the first attempt.

What are re-test fees?
If a student chooses to retake the WritePlacer English exam they must first pay a re-test fee of $15, in the 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 attempt this exam two times per calendar year.
An actor, when his cue came, was unable to move onto the stage. He said, “I can’t get in, the chair is in the way.” And the producer said, “Use the difficulty. If it’s a drama, pick the chair up and smash it. If it’s comedy, fall over it.” From this experience the actor concluded that in any situation in life that is negative, there is something positive you can do with it. Adapted from Lawrence Eisenberg, “Caine Scrutiny.”

Assignment: Can any obstacle or disadvantage be turned into something good?

Sample Essays (8 point)
An obstacle or disadvantage may appear to be a setback, though either has the ability to be turned into something good. For instance, Rosa Parks participated in the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 60s and was jailed for her involvement. Though her jail time was initially a setback and an obstacle she had to overcome, it eventually led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the gradual desegregation of the United States. Similarly, the Dean of Students at my school has to overcome the obstacle of paraplegia each day, yet he describes himself as a stronger and more sensitive individual as a result. Rosa Parks and my Dean are clear examples of obstacles being turned into something good. In Montgomery, Alabama during the Civil Rights Movement, African Americans were required to sit in the back of public buses. One day Rosa Parks refused to sit in the back of the bus and was sent to jail for her acts of civil disobedience. This action resonated with African Americans nationwide but particularly in Montgomery. The African American people staged a boycott and contributed to the desegregation which was a goal of their movement.

Rosa Parks served as a symbol of what was possible if one would simply take a stand and turn their situation from unjust and degrading to one that made a profound difference in today’s society. The Dean of Students at my school, was an English teacher, a track coach, and the Dean of Students before the roof of his barn collapsed on him a few years ago. He had always been a strong man who genuinely cared for his students. Who respected and loved him. After his accident, he lost the use of his legs and feet and his life drastically changed. He had become unable to care for himself and lost great amounts of self esteem. He ultimately decided he had to get his life back so he learned how to live independently through physical training courses, he learned to drive a car, and he returned to school. His experience which could have destroyed him and the goals he had actually allowed for him to build strength he never knew he had. Through his actions he made a severe disadvantage into a very positive life change. Through their varying experiences, Rosa Parks and my dean demonstrate that any obstacle or disadvantage can be turned into something good.

Additional sample writing prompts can be found at svcc.edu/accuplacer.