ASSESSMENT TESTING
How it Works and How YOU can be Successful
Why Do You Have To Take Assessment Tests?

- English, Math, and English as a Second Language classes (ESL) have *prerequisites*.
- A prerequisite is a course students are *required* to take to prove they are ready to take other courses.
  - For Example: To take ENGWR 300 you must have successfully completed ENGWR 101 or have placed into ENGWR 300 through the assessment testing process.

The *goal* of assessment is to place you in classes that are at your skill level—so you can be successful!
How Are Your Test Results Used?

- Your test results place you into the appropriate English, Math, or English as a Second Language classes.
  - We don’t want you enrolled in classes that are *too difficult* for you to be successful.
  - We also don’t want you enrolled in classes that are *too easy* for you—this wastes your time and money.
- Success Tip: Plan a realistic course schedule and meet with a counselor for guidance and help selecting classes that match your skill level.
How Do You Know Your Placement is Accurate?

The Folsom Lake College OIR (Office of Institutional Research) validates the testing data to make sure that placements are accurate.
How Can You Do Your Best On The Assessment Tests?

- Take your assessment tests seriously:
  - Where you place determines how many English and Math classes you will have to take to graduate or complete your educational goal.
  - How seriously you take the assessment tests may indicate how serious of a college student you will be.

- Familiarize yourself with the sample questions available at the Study Guides link on the assessment website:
  - Brush up your skills in those areas where you find gaps in your memory.

- Be familiar with the format of the test:
  - Complete the tutorial before taking the test. The tutorial will teach you how to go back to questions that you skipped.
  - Your score is based on the number of questions you answer correctly. Unanswered questions will be considered incorrect.
You Can Also...

- Organize your time so you can focus:
  - Find out *ahead of time* how much time is required for each test.
    - Don’t arrive to take your tests when you need to be at work in one hour.
    - Don’t come in to take your test when you’re not feeling well.

- Monitor your time:
  - Each English and Math test is timed. Pace yourself! Don’t spend too much time on any one question. Go back to a difficult question after you’ve finished the rest of your test.
  - Keep track of your progress! When half of the test time is gone check that you are nearly half-way through with the test. Adjust the speed that you are completing test questions if you need to.
  - Consider taking your English and Math tests on different days if you have test anxiety or trouble focusing for 2.5 hours.
Here’s How English Courses Progress...

- ENGWR 39
- ENGWR 41
- ENGWR 51
- ENGWR 101
- ENGWR 300 (AA/CSU/UC transferable)
- ENGWR 302 (CSU/UC transferable)

Your starting point is based on your assessment results. You are not allowed to enroll in a class at a higher level than where you place unless you successfully challenge the prerequisite. Do not put off taking your English class as the skills you develop in your English class are important skills for all other college classes!
Reading Course Progression:

- ENGRD 16
- ENGRD 110
- ENGRD 310 (AA/CSU transferable)

When you take your English assessment, you receive both a writing placement and a reading placement.

You can meet the reading graduation requirement on your first placement test. If you do not meet the graduation requirement on your first placement test, you will have 2 attempts on the COMPASS reading graduation test. You can also meet the graduation requirement by successfully completing ENGRD 310.
English Placement/Passing the Reading Competency

- When you take the English placement test you are also attempting to meet the reading graduation requirement for Folsom Lake College.
  - Beginning October 18th, 2013 only your first placement test can be counted towards the reading graduation requirement.
  - After your first placement test, you are allowed to take the COMPASS reading competency test twice (district wide).
  - If you do not meet the requirement through testing, you will be required to take a reading course or a series of reading courses in order to meet the graduation requirement.
- See the Study Guides link for sample questions.
Math Course Progression:

- MATH 20
- MATH 30
- MATH 100
- MATH 110/120 (meets AA requirements)
- MATH 300 level (CSU/UC transferable)

Your starting point is based on your assessment results. Don’t put off taking math classes! The longer you avoid math the more your skills will fade!
The 4 Math Testing Levels Are...

1. Algebra Readiness
   - 50 questions, 45 minutes
   - Skills assessed: integers, fractions, decimals, exponents, geometry

2. Elementary Algebra
   - 50 questions, 45 minutes
   - Skills assessed: arithmetic operations, polynomials, linear equations and inequalities, quadratic equations, graphing, rational expressions, exponents & square roots, geometric measurement, word problems
Math Testing Levels Continued...

3. Intermediate Algebra
- 45 questions, 45 minutes
- Skills assessed: elementary operations, rational expressions, exponents & radicals, linear equations & inequalities, quadratic polynomials, graphing, logarithms & functions, word problems

4. Pre-Calculus
- 60 questions, 90 minutes
- Skills assessed: rational expressions, exponents and radicals, linear equations and inequalities, polynomials & polynomial functions, functions, trigonometry, logs & exponential functions, word problems
How Do You Choose Which Math Test To Take?

- The best way to choose a math test is to review sample questions from all 4 math levels at the Study Guides link on the assessment website.
  - You should be comfortable with the sample questions for the math test you choose.
  - If you choose to take a math test that is too difficult for you, you will not receive a math placement. Your placement result will be “undetermined,” and it will be recommended that you test at a lower level.

- If you have not had a math class for a year or longer, we highly recommend that you brush up your skills prior to taking the assessment because math skills fade the longer people are away from math. Even a small amount of review may refresh your memory.
And Then Which Math Class Will You Place Into?

Algebra Readiness
- Math 20: Arithmetic
- Math 30: Pre-algebra
- Math 100: Elementary algebra

Elementary algebra
- Math 100: Elementary algebra
- Math 110: Elementary geometry
- Math 120: Intermediate algebra
- OR: “Undetermined”

Intermediate algebra
- Math 120: Intermediate algebra
- Math 310: Mathematical discovery
- Statistics 300: Introduction to probability and statistics
- Math 335: Trigonometry with college algebra
- “Undetermined”

Pre-calculus
- Statistics 300: Introduction to probability and statistics
- Math 335: Trigonometry with college algebra
- Math 370: Pre-calculus
- Math 400: Calculus I
- “Undetermined”
The ESL placement test begins with a 35 minute writing sample.

- The student should use specific reasons and examples to support his/her answer.
- A team of ESL faculty reads the writing sample to help decide which level of ESL writing course will be the best fit for the student.

After the writing sample, the student begins the multiple choice portion of the testing.

- This part of the test is not timed and will test for reading skills, grammar skills, and listening skills.
English As A Second Language
Course Progression

- **Listening**
  - ESLL 20
  - ESLL 30
  - ESLL 40
  - ESLL 50
  - ESLL 310
  - ESLL 320

- **Reading**
  - ESLR 20
  - ESLR 30
  - ESLR 40
  - ESLR 50
  - ESLR 310
  - ESLR 320

- **Writing**
  - ESLW 20
  - ESLW 30
  - ESLW 40
  - ESLW 50
  - ESLW 310
  - ESLW 320

- ESL classes are for students who have a first language other than English.
- Speak to a counselor for transfer information.
Sample Questions and Resources

Visit the “Study Guides” link on our assessment webpage for a complete list of sample questions and resources. These resources are recommended by our faculty to help you prepare for assessment testing.
Things To Remember...

- You are more likely to place accurately and at a higher level:
  - If you are familiar with the subject material and the format of our computerized assessment tests.
  - If you take the assessment testing seriously.

- Review sample questions and other available resources to determine if you need more preparation before you take your assessment tests.