

**PURPOSE OF THE ACCUPLACER** –Massachusetts requires all new college students to take the Accuplacer to demonstrate their skills in arithmetic, algebra, reading and writing. Students must meet minimum scores determined by the Department of Higher Education in order to avoid being placed into developmental math and/or English courses. The developmental courses cost the same as other college courses however they do not earn college credit toward the student’s college graduation.

As a Tech-Prep high school student you will have the opportunity to take the Accuplacer (at no cost). The purpose is to assess your level of **College Readiness** and increase your chances of placing into college level courses. You can check with your high school guidance department to determine what types of **refresher programs** might be available to you.

This handout will give you tips on preparing for the Accuplacer as well as general information about what is included on it.

ACCUPLACER TIPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Accuplacer is not timed so don’t rush.</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Read and understand each question; read all choices before answering.</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>When uncertain, eliminate obviously wrong choices first.</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>You cannot go back to a previous question, so be sure you’re satisfied with your answer before moving to the next question.</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In Reading Comprehension, read the passage as many times as necessary.</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In Sentence Skills, read your answer into the original sentence to see if it sounds smooth and logical.</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In Arithmetic and Elementary Algebra, test your answer in the original problem.</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No textbooks, notebooks, calculators** or other aids are allowed; all that is allowed is scratch paper provided by the Test Administrator. **On some math questions, a calculator will pop-up on the screen for your use.</b></li> </ul>

**TAKING THE ACCUPLACER AT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL –**

Staff members from MassBay will come to your high school to administer the Assessment in a computer lab. Accuplacer questions are *adaptive*, that is, the computer program automatically selects a more difficult or easier question based on your answer to the current question. Twelve to 20 questions, *mostly multiple-choice*, appear in each of the four Accuplacer areas.

Your results and percentile will be shown immediately upon completion. A Tech-Prep staff member will help interpret your scores and recommend appropriate follow-up.

*Preparing for Accuplacer* - You are encouraged to practice your skills using the websites listed below.

*Reassessments* – You can take the Accuplacer once in the junior year and once in the senior year. You are encouraged to use the websites below to prepare before taking it a second time. You should also seek additional help from your guidance department.

*Students with Disabilities* - Documented disabilities that may prevent you from taking the assessment under normal conditions should be reported to your guidance counselor.

**ABOUT THE ACCUPLACER QUESTIONS:**

**Arithmetic** measures your skills in:

- Operations with whole numbers and fractions
- Operations with decimals and percents
- Math applications and problem solving

**Elementary Algebra** tests you in:

- Operations with integers and rational numbers
- Operations with algebraic expressions
- Equation solving, inequalities, and word problems

**Reading Comprehension** measures:

- How well you can interpret a passage
- Whether you can identify the relationship between two sentences

**Sentence Skills** asks you to:

- Choose a word or phrase to substitute for the underlined portion of a sentence
- Asks you to select a sentence from choices without changing the meaning

**ACCUPLACER REVIEW AND PREPARATION WEBSITES:**

- [www.testprepreview.com](http://www.testprepreview.com)
- [www.mymathtest.com](http://www.mymathtest.com)
- [www.studyguidezone.com/accuplacer.htm](http://www.studyguidezone.com/accuplacer.htm)
- <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/accuplacer/>

**For more information contact:  
Your High School Guidance Counselor or  
Metro-West CVTE Linkage Director  
MassBay Community College: (781) 239 2584**