

## Placement Testing at Lincoln College-Normal

Starting your college career in the right classes can make a big difference in your academic success. Lincoln College-Normal uses COMPASS tests to help identify appropriate starting places in English composition, mathematics, and college reading classes.

### What is COMPASS?

COMPASS is a Computer-Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System developed by ACT. "Computer-adaptive" refers to the way test questions are selected. All COMPASS testing is done with computers, and questions are generated in response to each individual test-taker's previous answers. For example, in the math test, a student who consistently answers basic math questions correctly is automatically given progressively more complex questions. Likewise, a student who consistently misses advanced level math questions is automatically routed to more basic questions.

### When will I know my score?

At the end of your testing session, you will receive a printout showing your score for each test you took. The printout will also include a placement message showing the classes that your scores indicate you should take.

### Is there a cost to take a placement test?

Lincoln College students are not charged for their initial placement exams. There is a \$20 fee for each subsequent attempt on any test.

### How can I prepare for the placement test?

Placement testing is an important first step in your college career. It may be helpful to look at sample questions before taking the tests. Visit the following sites to get an idea of what to expect.

#### Reading

[www.act.org/compass/sample/pdf/reading.pdf](http://www.act.org/compass/sample/pdf/reading.pdf)

#### Math

(Numerical Skills) [www.act.org/compass/sample/pdf/numerical.pdf](http://www.act.org/compass/sample/pdf/numerical.pdf)

(College Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry) [www.act.org/compass/sample/pdf/geometry.pdf](http://www.act.org/compass/sample/pdf/geometry.pdf)

#### English Composition (E-Write)

[www.act.org/compass/sample/essay.html](http://www.act.org/compass/sample/essay.html)

### How do I schedule a placement test?

Students who participate in PROP summer orientation will take placement tests during their campus visit for the PROP session. Other students should follow the steps below.

1. Request your academic advisor to submit a Placement Test Authorization form.
2. Call the Testing Center (309.268.4899) to schedule a testing appointment.
3. Bring a photo ID to the Testing Center (106A) when you come to take the test. The proctor will provide a calculator, scratch paper, and pencils if you are taking a math placement test. Allow about 2 hours if you're taking all 3 tests.

