

## Welcome

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Congratulations on your decision to continue your education – what an exciting journey you are embarking on!

As a piece of the admission process at Northcentral Technical College (NTC) and to ensure you are current in the skills needed to be successful in your area of study, we invite you to complete the Accuplacer assessment which will measure your knowledge in arithmetic, elementary algebra, reading comprehension and sentence skills.

The Accuplacer, a computer based assessment, is not a pass or fail test, rather the results will help determine what classes best fit you and your academic needs.

The following pages contain information regarding Accuplacer scoring, testing regulations, and confidentiality. Additionally, you can read through descriptions of each of the testing areas and try a few sample questions. Be sure to check out the recommended online study guides for additional preparation materials.

Special testing accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. For additional information, please contact the NTC Center for Students with Disabilities at 888.682.7144, ext. 1087.

It is our pleasure to assist you in preparing for the Accuplacer assessment. Please feel free to contact the NTC Learning Center at 888.682.7144, ext. 1152.

We wish you all the best on Accuplacer and look forward to seeing you at NTC in the future!

## The Basics

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**Untimed Assessment:** The Accuplacer is an untimed assessment, meaning (unlike ACT) you do not need to complete the various sections within a specified time limit. The average time per section is 30 minutes.

**Administered by Computer:** As opposed to a standard paper-pencil test, the Accuplacer is conducted online via a computer. You will need to answer each question as it is presented without further review at a later time.

**Multiple Choice:** There are no essay or long-answer questions. Each question will have three to four multiple choice answers from which to choose.

**Adaptive Exam:** You will be presented with a question you must answer before a new question will appear. Once you have submitted an answer a new question will be pulled from a bank of 120 possible questions. You may not skip questions, nor can you return to a question previously answered.

**Immediate Results:** Your Accuplacer score is determined by the number of questions you answered correctly and the difficulty level of the questions. Immediately after you have completed testing your Total Right Score and Percentile Rank will be displayed on the computer monitor.

## Core Tests

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**Arithmetic:** This portion of the assessment consists of 17 questions from the following three content areas:

- Whole Numbers and Fractions (add, subtract, multiply, divide, estimation, equivalent fractions)
- Decimals and Percents (add, subtract, multiply, divide, percents, fraction/decimal equivalents)
- Applications and Problem Solving (rate, percent, measurement problems, geometry)

**Algebra:** This portion of the assessment consists of 12 questions from the following three content areas:

- Integers and Rationals (computation, absolute values, ordering)
- Algebraic Expressions (evaluation of simple formulas, monomials/polynomials, rational roots, exponents, factoring)
- Equations, Inequalities and Word Problems (linear equations, quadratic equations, geometric reasoning/graphing)

**Reading Comprehension:** This portion of the assessment consists of 20 questions from the following five content areas:

- Identifying Main Ideas
- Direct Statements and Secondary Ideas
- Inferences
- Applications
- Sentence Relationships

**Sentence Skills:** This portion of the assessment consists of 20 questions from the following three content areas:

- Recognizing Complete Sentences
- Coordination and Subordination
- Clear Sentence Logic

## Study Guides

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Many successful learners find studying eases the anxiety and pressure associated with exam taking. The Accuplacer is no different and requires a certain amount of preparation for your success. The following websites and study guides may give you a better understanding of the Accuplacer and the skills on which you will be tested.

To access these sites, open your preferred Internet browser (i.e. Internet Explorer, Netscape, etc.). In the “address bar” type the URL (http address) of one of the sites below.

➤ **The Accuplacer Online Student Guide:**

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/accuplacer/index.html>

This FREE site provides an in-depth description about the exam with directions, sample test questions and an explanation of how the Accuplacer is scored.

➤ **Math.Com:**

<http://www.math.com/>

This FREE site provides a comprehensive view into the wide world of math. From basic math and algebra through trigonometry and calculus, this amazing site provides you with self-paced tutoring for your entire math needs.

➤ **Study Guide Zone:**

<http://www.studyguidezone.com/accuplacertest.htm>

This FREE self-guided site takes you through sample questions and review for all areas of the Accuplacer assessment. With tips, formulas, and key points, this site will guide you through a comprehensive review!

➤ **Test Preview Prep:**

[http://www.testprepreview.com/accuplacer\\_practice.htm](http://www.testprepreview.com/accuplacer_practice.htm)

This FREE extensive site provides a description of the Accuplacer (and various other college entrance exams) with self-assessment modules to help you determine areas in which you should complete additional studying prior to testing. After completing the self-assessments, use the self-improvement directory to raise your skills in those areas needing assistance.

Following are the recommended Self-Assessment Modules for each of the Accuplacer core assessments:

Arithmetic:

- Averages and Rounding
- Arithmetic
- Estimation and Sequences
- Exponents
- Fractions and Square Roots
- Geometry
- Percents and Ratios

Algebra:

- Basic Algebra
- Advanced Algebra

Reading Comprehension:

- Basic and Advanced Reading Comprehension
- Reading for the Main Idea
- Reading Vocabulary

Sentence Skills:

- Commas
- Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Grammar
- Nouns
- Sentence Correction
- Sentence Flow
- Verbs

➤ **NTC Learning Center:**

In addition to the aforementioned websites, you can utilize an NTC Learning Center to prepare for the Accuplacer exam. A Learning Center is located at each of our campuses: Antigo, Medford, Phillips, Spencer, Wausau, and Wittenberg. Our Learning Centers are available to strengthen your skills in basic math, reading, writing, sentence, and study skills. You can stop in, without an appointment, anytime the Centers are open to receive FREE assistance. For hours and availability, please contact a Center directly at 888.682.7144, ext. 1152.

➤ **NTC Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD):**

Please bear in mind assistive forms of testing are available through our CSD. Accommodations may include interpreters, taped texts/materials, enlarged print materials, and alternative forms of testing. For additional information, please contact the Center directly at 888.682.7144, ext. 1087.

## Score Reporting

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When you have completed testing, you will be provided with a print out of your scores similar to the following:

Test Results	Date	Score	Percentile
Arithmetic	01/01/2004	80	83
Elementary Algebra	01/01/2004	100	87
Reading Comprehension	01/01/2004	107	90
Sentence Skills	01/01/2004	113	91

The “Score” shows how many of the questions you could expect to answer correctly if you took a test that consisted of 120 questions.

The “Percentile” compares your score with the scores of typical students entering college who completed tests composed of similar questions. For example, a Percentile of 90 means your score is equal to or higher than those of 90 percent of the students who completed the test.

Your scores or percentiles will be evaluated and compared to the admission guidelines for your program of interest. Immediately following testing at NTC, you will be invited to meet with someone to discuss your scores and to plan your next step in the admission process.

## Confidentiality

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Your test scores and information you provide when taking the test will be used by NTC for counseling and admission purposes. It may also be used by NTC for research purposes. Your test information will not be used for any other reason without your permission. If the data is used for research purposes, special precautions will be taken to ensure your identity is kept confidential. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the NTC Learning Center.

## Testing Regulations

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Please be aware textbooks, notebooks, dictionaries, calculators or other papers of any kind are not allowed in the testing room.\* Anyone who gives or receives help during the test, or uses notes or books of any kind, will not be allowed to continue the test. Following the test administration, no test materials or notes may be removed from the room.

\*Note: The NTC Testing Center will provide you with scratch paper which may be used during any portion of the assessment. Additionally, a computer-generated calculator will appear onscreen for those questions where the use of a calculator is permitted.