

# Alternate Assessment

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CSM Assessment Services conducts the college assessment program which includes English, Reading, ESL, and Mathematics assessment components. These assessments are intended to measure skills which research has shown to be closely related to academic success. These multiple measurements represent student strengths and capabilities. There are multiple options for assessing English and math course placement.

1. CSM English and Math Assessment Questionnaires
2. English and Math Alternate Assessment Form
3. Computerized testing for English, Mathematics and English as a Second Language (ESL)
4. Paper/Pencil Testing for English
5. Complete a Prerequisite Equivalency Form

CSM uses both Accuplacer and Aleks computerized test for English, ESL and mathematics.

- Aleks Mathematics Test
- ACCUPLACER - ESL Reading Skills, ESL Sentence Meaning, ESL Language Use and ESL Listening (Computerized Placement Tests) (The College Board)

Interpreting course placement results. Alternate assessment and placement tests are intended to measure skills in English and Math. Students are advised to discuss course placement results with a counselor so that they can assist them to develop an educational plan.

Refer to the course listing in this catalog for titles, descriptions and prerequisites for the courses in the following placement charts. Students are encouraged to consult with a counselor/advisor regarding course selection and planning.

## Alternate Assessment/Placement Test Results to Meet Course Prerequisites

MATH placement results, for the purpose of course placement and prerequisite skill level assessment, are valid for two years only. Math placement test results "time out" after two years from the date completed.

ENGLISH/ESL placement results, for the purpose of course placement and prerequisite skill level assessment do not "time out" and remain valid indefinitely. If, however, a significant amount of time has passed since the English or ESL test was completed, the student may select to repeat the placement test to secure an accurate assessment of current skill level.

## Alternate Assessment used for Course Placement and/or Credit:

If English or math course placement has been identified through the use of one of the alternate methods listed below, visit the [Prerequisites \(collegeofsanmateo.edu/forms/prerequisites.asp\)](http://collegeofsanmateo.edu/forms/prerequisites.asp) forms page and complete the English and Math Alternate Assessment Form to allow for registration in the approved math or English courses.

### For Placement into English 100:

1. CAASPP English results allow for eligibility for English 100. However, the student must enroll in English 100 in the summer or fall immediately following completion of the senior year in high school for the CAASPP results and placement to be valid.
2. IB Language A1/English HL (International Baccalaureate Exam) results with a score of 4 or higher.
3. SAT results with Critical Reading score of 500 or higher or Writing Subject score of 660 or higher.
4. ACT English (Usage/Mechanics, Rhetorical Skills) with score of 22 or higher.
5. CSU English Placement Test with a score of 147 or higher.

### For Placement into English 110 or 165:

1. AP Exam, English Language and Composition, with a score of 3 or higher
2. AP Exam, English Literature and Composition, with a score of 3 or higher

## For Placement into Math Courses:

1. CAASPP Math results allow for placement into MATH 125, 130, 145, 200 or 241. Results cannot be “conditional.”
2. AP Math CALC AB\* results: with a score of 3 you are eligible for Math 251; with a score of 4 or 5 you are eligible for Math 252 and/ or Math 268.
3. AP Math CALC BC\* results: with a score of 3 your are eligible for Math 252 and/or Math 268; with a score of 4 or 5 you are eligible for Math 253 and/or Math 270.
4. IB Math HL (International Baccalaureate Exam) results with a score of 4 or higher meet the associate degree math competency requirement and allow placement into Math 125, 130, 145, 200, or 241.

\*Although AP results allow eligibility to enroll, be advised that if your college major requires Math 251, 252, and 253, your AP results may not meet major requirements for the associate degree and/or transfer. There are many instances when AP results will not be used to meet major course requirements. Meet with a counselor for course selection assistance.