

Piedmont Virginia Community College

Section IX – Student Affairs Policies

IX – 100.0 Placement Testing

Effective Date: July 2012

Last Revised: Month Year March 2026

Responsible Dept.: Vice President of Student Affairs

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define how to properly place students in college-level English and mathematics courses.

2. Policy Statement

In determining students' readiness for college-level English and math courses required in credit associate degree and certificate programs as well as in courses that require a reading, writing and math prerequisite, PVCC uses the following means and measures:

- a) Any student enrolling in a Career Studies Certificate program is exempt from placement testing, unless a course in the program requires a reading, writing, or math prerequisite.
- b) Any student who has earned an associate degree or higher or who has earned a C or better in college-level courses in math and/or English at a regionally accredited institution is exempt from placement testing provided he or she meets the prerequisite for the respective courses in their chosen program of study.
- c) Any student who has successfully completed developmental courses at a VCCS institution is exempt from placement testing in those areas.
- d) Any student who has successfully completed developmental courses at a non-VCCS institution will have his/her coursework evaluated to determine the need for placement testing.
- e) Any student may submit a high school/home school transcript or an approved test score for placement evaluation. Placement will be based on the tables below. High school /home schooled seniors who have not yet graduated may submit a transcript as of the completion of the first semester of the senior year to determine readiness for placement into college-level courses for the purpose of early admission to the PVCC.

PVCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. View the full nondiscrimination statement and find contacts at pvcc.edu/nondiscrimination.

Any student who is not placed into a college-level English or math course by the above criteria will take the Virginia Placement Test (VPT) or ESL-specific test, as appropriate. Students may take the VPT in order to improve their placement standing after other measures are considered. Such placement test scores will not be used to place a student in a lower English or math course than indicated by the other criteria, unless the student desires a lower placement.

3. Definitions

ESL: English as a Second Language.

VPT: Virginia Placement Test.

SOL: Standards of Learning Test.

4. Applicability

This policy applies to all PVCC students, course applicants, faculty, and staff.

5. Responsibilities

N/A

6. Procedures for Implementation

Students who are not exempt from placement testing will meet with an academic advisor to determine enrollment steps, including placement testing.

Printed placement test results are available to students immediately.

After placement testing, students will meet with an academic advisor to interpret the scores.

6.1 Measures for Math Placement

Math placement will be determined using one of the following measures.

- a) HS GPA and Algebra II and one Algebra Intensive Course – i.e., Algebra Intensive Courses above Algebra II: Trigonometry, Math Analysis, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Algebra III.
 - i. HS GPA or Score Range: 3.0 or higher; 2.7-2.9
 - ii. Placement: MTE 1-9 satisfied; MTE 1-9 Co-Requisite Eligible*

- b) HS GPA and Algebra II

- i. HS GPA or Score Range: 3.0 or higher; 2.7-2.9
 - ii. Placement: MTE 1-5 satisfied; MTE 1-5 Co-Requisite Eligible*
- c) HS GPA and Algebra I
- i. HS GPA or Score Range: 3.0 or higher; 2.7-2.9
 - ii. Placement: MTE 1-3 satisfied; MTE 1-3 Co-Requisite Eligible*
- d) SAT – Math
- i. HS GPA or Score Range: 530 or above; 510-520 range
 - ii. Placement: MTE 1-9 satisfied; MTE 1-5 satisfied
- e) ACT – Subject Area Test Math
- i. HS GPA or Score Range: 22 or above; 19-21 range
 - ii. Placement: MTE 1-9 satisfied; MTE 1-5 satisfied
- f) GED – Math
- i. HS GPA or Score Range: 165 or above; 155-165 range
 - ii. Placement: MTE 1-5 satisfied; MTE 1-3 satisfied

*Co—requisite courses may not be available for enrollment until the spring 2018 semester.

Students will complete the VPT-Calculus for placement into Pre-Calculus II, Calculus, and 200-level Statistics.

A High school GPA is valid for five (5) years after the date of high school graduation. SAT, ACT, and GED test scores are valid for five (5) years after the date of the test. Virginia Placement Test-Math scores are valid for five (5) years after the date of the test. Previously taken developmental courses are valid for five (5) years after the term taken.

Students who take the Virginia Placement Test-Math and who do not enroll in developmental courses are allowed to take one (1) retest within twelve (12) months. Students who attempt developmental courses will be ineligible for a retest. Exceptions to this retest policy may be made on a case-by-case basis.

6.2 Measures for English Placement

English placement will be determined by using one of the following measures.

- a) HS GPA
 - i. HS GPA or Score Range: 3.0 or higher; 2.7-2.9
 - ii. Placement: ENG 111; ENF 3/ ENG 111

- b) SAT-ERW (Evidence-Based Reading and Writing)
 - i. HS GPA or Score Range: 80 or above; 460-470 range
 - ii. Placement: ENG 111; ENF 3/ ENG 111

- c) ACT – Subject Area Tests for English and Reading
 - i. HS GPA or Score Range: 18 or above; 15-17 range
 - ii. Placement: ENG 111; ENF 3 / ENG 111

- d) GED – English
 - i. HS GPA or Score Range: 165 or above
 - ii. Placement: ENG 111

High school GPA is valid for five (5) years after the date of high school graduation. SAT, ACT, and GED test scores are valid for five (5) years after the date of the test. Virginia Placement Test-English scores are valid for five (5) years after the date of the test. Previously taken developmental courses are valid for five (5) years after the term taken.

Students who take the Virginia Placement Test-English and who do not enroll in developmental courses are allowed to take one (1) retest within twelve (12) months. Students who attempt developmental courses will be ineligible for a retest. Exceptions to this retest policy may be made on a case-by-case basis.

6.3 Placement Testing at Other VCCS Colleges

Students who intend to enroll at another VCCS college may take the Virginia Placement Test (VPT) at PVCC at no cost to the student. Students who intend to enroll at PVCC may take the Virginia Placement Test (VPT) at another VCCS college at no cost to the student. PVCC will accept placement test scores from other VCCS institutions within the timelines outlined in this policy.

6.4 Dual Enrollment Placement Testing

To take a PVCC dual enrollment course, a high school junior or senior must meet the dual enrollment eligibility requirements as well as meet all prerequisites for the specific class or

classes in which he or she plans to enroll. This is typically done through placement testing or through satisfactory SAT, ACT, or PSAT scores.

Students interested in taking a PVCC transfer, or career and technical education dual enrollment class must meet math and English requirements by taking the VCCS placement test(s) (VPT) or through minimum SAT, ACT, PSAT, or in limited cases the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) tests.

- a) A student who provides official evidence of a minimum mathematics score of 530 on the SAT, a mathematics score of 22 on the ACT, or a minimum mathematics score of 500 on the PSAT taken within the last two years is exempt from taking the VPT mathematics placement test. Students interested in taking dual enrollment classes that do not have a mathematics prerequisite, are exempt from VPT testing if they provide evidence of a passing score on the Algebra I SOL test.
- b) A student who provides official evidence of a combined score of 480 on both the evidence-based reading and writing section of the SAT, a minimum combined score of 18 on the ACT, or a minimum combined critical reading and writing score of 390 on the PSAT taken within the last two years is exempt from taking the VCCS English placement test.
- c) Any student who is not placed into a college-level English or math course by the above criteria will take the Virginia Placement Test (VPT).

All students who are required to test into college-level mathematics for purposes of dual enrollment will take the VPT Dual Enrollment test. This test will determine whether a student has the requisite skills needed to place into precalculus I (MTH 163). If a student places into MTH 163 after taking the VPT Dual Enrollment test, he/she may take the VPT Calculus test, which determines eligibility for a range of higher-level math classes including MTH 164 (precalculus II), MTH 271 (applied calculus), MTH 240 (statistics), and MTH 173 (calculus with analytic geometry I).

- d) VPT Calculus Test: Students who have demonstrated proficiency in pre-calculus or beyond in high school may start by taking the VPT Calculus test. High school administrators, counselors, or career coaches/specialists should work with the PVCC Dual Enrollment Coordinator to make this determination based on a student's high school transcript.
- e) VPT Math Practice Test: An online practice test is available for the VPT that covers all the pre-college (developmental) mathematics content, but not the content from the VPT Calculus test. It is recommended that high school students take the practice test before taking the VPT. Students who do not meet an 80% proficiency level on each content area of the practice test are strongly encouraged to remediate before attempting the VPT.
- f) Retaking the Virginia Placement Tests: Test scores are valid for two (2) years after the date of the test. Students are allowed to take one (1) retest within twelve (12)

months. Exceptions to this retest policy may be made on a case-by-case basis.

This policy governs the placement testing of high school students for the purposes of dual enrollment only. High school seniors testing for purposes of placement into PVCC classes upon matriculation will take the full VPT tests on campus.

7. Sanctions for Violation of Policy

N/A

8. Other General Information