

PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

I – ACADEMIC AFFAIRS POLICIES

I – 100.0 PLACEMENT TESTING POLICY

Policy #:	I – 100.0
Effective:	2012
Revised:	July 2016
Responsible Dept.:	VPISS

Purpose

To promote student success, placement tests are given to match students with appropriate courses for their skill level.

Policy

All students entering credit degree or certificate programs will take placement tests with the following exceptions:

1. Students taking courses with no math, writing or reading prerequisites.
2. Students enrolling in Career Studies Certificate programs unless a course in the program requires a reading, writing, or math prerequisite.
3. Students who meet the prerequisites of a course as demonstrated by:
 - a. Appropriate SAT, ACT or PSAT test score: A student who provides official evidence of a minimum mathematics score of 550 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. A student who provides official evidence of a combined score of 560 on both the evidence-based reading and writing section of the SAT, a minimum combined score of 18 on the ACT, or a minimum critical reading and writing score of 390 on the PSAT taken within the last two years is exempt from taking the VPT English placement test.
 - b. College transcript of a satisfactory grade (“C” or better) in a college-level English course (for English prerequisites) and/or in a college- level math course (for math prerequisites)
 - c. Completion of a 4-year or advanced college degree.
4. Retesting
VPT test scores are valid for two (2) years after the date of the test. Students who take the placement test 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.

Procedure

1. After completing the online college application, students who are not exempt from placement testing will meet with an academic advisor to determine enrollment steps, including placement testing.
2. While it may take up to 24 hours to post test scores, printed results are available to students immediately.
3. After placement testing, students should meet with an academic advisor to interpret the scores.

Dual Enrollment Placement Testing

1. To take a PVCC dual enrollment class, a high school junior or senior must meet the dual enrollment eligibility requirements as well as meet all requisites 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.
2. Students interested in taking a PVCC dual enrollment class must meet a math and English requirement by taking the VCCS placement test(s) (VPT) or through minimum SAT, ACT, PSAT, Advanced Placement Test (AP) scores, or in limited cases the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) tests.
 - a. A student who provides official evidence of a minimum mathematics score of 550 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, may be 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 560 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.
3. All students that need 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).

a. *VPT Calculus Test*

Students who have demonstrated proficiency in pre-calculus or beyond in high school may start with 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.

b. *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.

4. *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.

5. 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.