

Test-Taking Tips

VPT for Math Checklist

- Take an online practice test.
- If needed, use HAWKES computer-based tutorial in the First Quadrant Math Center, Room M253 in the Main Building.
- If desired, meet with a math tutor to review previously learned material, not new concepts.
- Take the placement test in the Testing Center, Room M607 in the Main Building.

VPT for English Checklist

- Take an online practice test.
- Practice writing essays (see separate handout).
- If desired, meet with a tutor in the Writing Center, Room M617 in the Main Building.
- Take the placement test in the Testing Center, Room M607 in the Main Building.

Online Practice Test

Click <https://college.measuredsuccess.com> to complete an online practice test.

1. Select Student Self-Registration.
2. Under institution, choose VCCS Practice Test Institution.
3. Under site, select VCCS Practice Test.
4. In the password field, enter Virginiapt.
5. Complete the required fields (denoted by a red asterisk) and click submit.
6. Select a practice test to complete.

Once a student registers on the VPT practice site, he or she will receive a user ID and password.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I need a photo ID to take the VPT?

A: Yes, you must present a photo ID to the Testing Center prior to taking the VPT.

Q: How much does it cost to take the VPT?

A: There is no fee to take the VPT.

Q: If English is not my native language, do I take the VPT for English?

A: No, non-native speakers take the ESL Compass test, not the VPT for English.

Q: Am I exempt from taking the VPT for English, VPT for Math, or both?

A: Students who have completed college-level English, college-level math, or have taken the ACT/SAT may be exempt. Contact Admissions & Advising for assistance.

Q: How much should I study for the VPT?

A: You should brush up on previously learned material but do not attempt to learn new material.

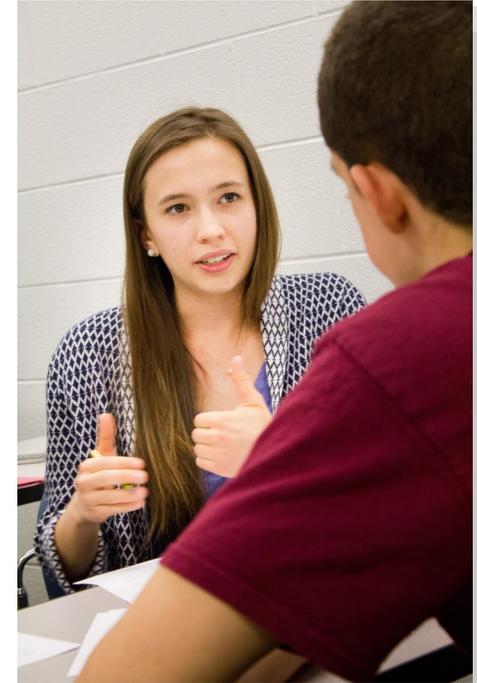
Q: How long does it take to complete the VPT?

A: Allow about two hours to complete each test.

Q: If I am not pleased with my placement results, may I retake the VPT?

A: Yes, you may retake the VPT once in a 12-month period, but you may not retake it once you start a corresponding developmental course.

Virginia Placement Test



A little preparation can save you a lot of time and money!



Virginia Placement Test

The Virginia Community College System (VCCS), including Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) administers the Virginia Placement Test (VPT), to ensure that incoming students are prepared for college-level coursework in English and mathematics.

The VPT evaluates readiness for college-level English and math courses. It is not an admission test. The VPT ensures that students are placed into the right course(s) for their program of study.

The VPT for English and the VPT for Math are computerized, not paper and pencil. Both tests are untimed, yet students should allow two hours to complete each test. At the end of the VPT, students will receive a printout which lists the course(s) they may take, not a passing score.

Students may retake the VPT for English, VPT for Math, or both once in a 12-month period; however students may not retake the VPT once enrolled in a corresponding developmental course.



VPT for English

The VPT for English consists of 40 multiple-choice questions and an essay portion, which is more heavily weighted. The student will be given two prompts, and the student must write an essay in response to one of the two prompts. Although this question is not a prompt on the actual test, the student might see something similar to “What do you consider the most important event of the last ten years, and why?”

A well-written essay consists of more than one paragraph and typically includes an introduction, body, and conclusion. Students may provide examples, tell a story, or use other means to support their main point. Computerized help tools such as spell check and auto correct will not be available when writing the essay. Students should proofread their essays for spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

After completing the writing section, students will encounter 40 multiple choice questions that range from reading comprehension, to choosing the best word for a sentence, to what a legitimate source would be for writing a paper.

Students are encouraged to take a practice test prior to taking the VPT for English. If students need additional help prior to taking the test, tutoring is available at no cost in the Writing Center, Room M617 in the Main Building. Tutors are available on a first-come, first-served basis or by appointment. For more information or to make an appointment, call the Writing Center (434) 961-5499.

VPT for Math

The VPT for Math covers nine math essentials, or topical areas. It is a computerized test, and no personal calculators are allowed—but on-screen calculators are provided as appropriate during the test.

The VPT for Math consists of a series of math questions, but the degree of difficulty varies throughout the assessment. The first 30 questions assess college-level math skills, and they progress in difficulty as you answer each one correctly. Once you reach your optimal math ability, the test will end, and the appropriate college level math course will be determined.

Math requirements vary by program of study. For example, students seeking an Associate of Science (AS) degree in business administration must demonstrate proficiency in MTE 1-9 and complete two required college-level math courses; whereas students pursuing an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in nursing must demonstrate proficiency in MTE 1-5 but are not required to complete additional math courses. Consult Admissions & Advising, Room M144 in the Main Building or (434) 961-6551, for specific requirements.

Students are encouraged to take a practice test and use a computer-based tutorial (available in the First Quadrant Math Center) or to meet with a tutor as needed. For more information, call the First Quadrant Math Center (434) 961-5284.