

# Placement Testing Guide to Re-tests, Appeals, & Developmental Courses

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Rock Valley College uses **ACCUPLACER** for placement testing. For more information, see <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/accuplacer> and [www.rockvalleycollege.edu/placementtest](http://www.rockvalleycollege.edu/placementtest).

**One (1) re-test in each subject area is permitted.** There is a \$5.00 fee for each subject area re-tested. Students are advised to use their one (1) re-test option wisely. Without study and preparation, it is unlikely that placement will change.

**Highest scores are honored** and your placements are final once you have completed all re-test/appeal options (as described below).

**Re-testing after 3+ years is permitted** (not required) if the student has never taken a course in that particular subject. A withdraw (W) or a letter grade earned is considered as having taken the course.

**High School (Dual-Credit) students** are subject to the same placement test requirements and cut scores. Re-tests for dual-credit/dual-enrolled students are free. Additionally, students may re-test one (1) time for each academic year. If college-level placement is not achieved during high school years, the student is permitted to test and re-test again prior to their enrollment as a traditional college student. For more information, contact the High School Connections Office at (815)921-4080 or [www.rockvalleycollege.edu/StudentServices/HSCconnections](http://www.rockvalleycollege.edu/StudentServices/HSCconnections).

**Talk to an Advisor or Counselor** if you are unsure of what choices to make based on your placements. Contact the Advising & Counseling Center (815)921-4100 or [www.rockvalleycollege.edu/Admission/Counseling](http://www.rockvalleycollege.edu/Admission/Counseling).

## PREPARING FOR A RE-TEST

We find that students who prepare for their re-test do better. Here are some options for you.

- **ACCUPLACER Placement Test Review Guide (including sample questions)** is available in printed form in the Testing Center or on our website: [www.rockvalleycollege.edu/placementtest](http://www.rockvalleycollege.edu/placementtest).
- **A+dvancer** is online courseware available to assist motivated students who find themselves under-prepared for college-level coursework and desire to commit to refreshing their skills prior to re-testing. *A+dvancer* is available in the following subjects: Reading, English, Arithmetic, Elementary Algebra, College Algebra and College Trigonometry/Calculus. More information is available at [www.rockvalleycollege.edu/advancer](http://www.rockvalleycollege.edu/advancer) or in the Testing Center (815)921-2385 or e-mail us at [rvc-testing-center@rockvalleycollege.edu](mailto:rvc-testing-center@rockvalleycollege.edu).

## UNDERSTANDING DEVELOPMENTAL PLACEMENTS

If your final placement is a developmental course (course number below 100 such as RDG 096 or MTH 091), you will be required to take all of the courses in the developmental sequence of that subject beginning with your placement and advancing up to the college-level courses (course number of 100 or greater such as MTH 115 or ENG 101). A grade of C or better is required to advance to the next course in the sequence. **You many not skip a developmental course in the sequence and you may not re-test once you have enrolled in a developmental course (exceptions in Math may apply). By starting in the course, you are accepting your placement.** This rule applies unless the student drops the course on or before the **“Last day of tuition refunds”**. See the current Credit Schedule (under Important Dates) for the exact date.

**Reading** – If you placed into a developmental reading course, you must take that reading course in order to take any other courses. To determine which courses you are eligible to take based on your reading placement, see the Reading Course Options available in the Testing Center, Counseling, and at [www.rockvalleycollege.edu/placementtest](http://www.rockvalleycollege.edu/placementtest).

**English** – If you placed into ENG 099 and also a developmental reading course, you are strongly advised to complete the entire developmental reading sequence through RDG 099 before attempting a re-test in English or before taking ENG 099. There are additional developmental English courses (ENG 082 & ENG 097). Consult an advisor to determine which course(s) to take.

**Math** – You are advised to review comprehensive information about developmental math courses (i.e. MTH 088, MTH 091, etc.) and policies at [www.rockvalleycollege.edu/math](http://www.rockvalleycollege.edu/math). If you have questions about developmental math, contact the Developmental Math Coordinator, Kathy Almy, at [kalmy@ednet.rvc.cc.il.us](mailto:kalmy@ednet.rvc.cc.il.us) or an advisor at (815)921-4100.

**See back for specific re-test information by subject.**

## READING COMPREHENSION

All students are allowed **one (1)** re-test in Reading Comprehension. The cost is \$5.00 to re-test.

There is one (1) condition under which another option is available.

If you have taken the Reading Comprehension test two (2) times and **both** scores are **between 65–69**, you may choose to take an untimed, written Reading Appeal Test. To schedule an appointment to take the Reading Appeal Test, contact the Testing Center at (815)921-2385.

Students scoring 34 or below on the Reading Comprehension test are advised to speak to Testing Center staff about re-test options (815)921-2385.

## SENTENCE SKILLS (ENGLISH)

All students are allowed **one (1)** re-test in Sentence Skills (English). The cost is \$5.00 to re-test.

There are two (2) conditions under which another option is available.

- 1) If your highest Sentence Skills score is **between 67-75**, you may choose to take the Writing Sample.
- 2) Students scoring 70 or above on Reading Comprehension but 66 or below on Sentence Skills (English) may also choose the Writing Sample option.

### What is the Writing Sample?

The Writing Sample is an opportunity for you to submit a sample of your writing to the Composition and Literature Department. The English faculty will determine your placement into English 099 or English 101 based on your writing sample. The writing sample is a written assessment with a 50-minute time limit. Students select one (1) topic from a list of topics and compose a short essay. Students may elect to either hand-write or use a computer (Microsoft Word) to compose their writing sample. Schedule an appointment to take the Writing Sample by contacting the Testing Center (815)921-2380.

## MATHEMATICS

All students are allowed **one (1)** re-test in Mathematics. The cost is \$5.00 to re-test.

There is one (1) additional placement option to consider.

### Making a Math Appeal

If you have taken a math course in H.S. or college that is higher than the course in which you were placed by the ACCUPLACER Placement Test AND you earned a C or better in that course, you may make a Math Appeal. Eligible students must complete the Math Appeal Form, attach all supporting materials and submit it no later than one (1) week before the start of the semester in order for the appeal to be effective for that semester. Some students may be required to take an additional test in order to determine final math placement. Math Appeal Forms can be found in the Testing Center, the Counseling Center, the Mathematics Division Office, CLII – Room 214 and online at [www.rockvalleycollege.edu/Academics/Math/MathPlacement.cfm](http://www.rockvalleycollege.edu/Academics/Math/MathPlacement.cfm)

For complete information about developmental math courses (i.e. MTH 088, MTH 091, etc.) and policies, see [www.rockvalleycollege.edu/math](http://www.rockvalleycollege.edu/math). If you have questions about developmental math, contact the Developmental Math Coordinator at [kalmy@ednet.rvc.cc.il.us](mailto:kalmy@ednet.rvc.cc.il.us) or an advisor at (815)921-4100.

Placements into MTH 086, 088, 089, 091, 092, 096 may also require MTH 097 (Geometry). Listed below are three options to meet the MTH 097 geometry requirement:

- **Complete a MTH 097 Waiver Form** if you have completed two (2) semesters of high school geometry with a C or better. Forms are available in the Testing Center, Records Office, and Advising & Counseling or online at [www.rockvalleycollege.edu/Academics/Math/GeometryOptions.cfm](http://www.rockvalleycollege.edu/Academics/Math/GeometryOptions.cfm)
- **Pass the Geometry Competency Exam.** Information is available in the Testing Center.
- **Pass MTH 097 with a C or better.** MTH 097 may be taken before, concurrently, or after MTH 093/094.