



Mandatory Basic Skills Assessment and Placement

The State of Colorado in accordance with House Bill 1464 mandates that beginning students to Colorado's state-supported institutions of higher education must be assessed. First-time students entering college Fall 2001 who are declaring a degree or certificate program will be required to take courses based on the test results from the Basic Skills Assessment Test. Students registering for any English or mathematics courses, or any course that requires English, mathematics or reading prerequisite skills, will also be required to test and enroll based on the results from testing. This is to ensure that students are prepared to succeed in college level courses.

Students will be advised and assisted in registering for the appropriate courses; they will be prevented from registering for courses for which they do not have the appropriate prerequisite courses or test score. Students must complete all required basic skills courses within their first 30 credit hours of enrollment.

Students receiving financial aid may lose funding if basic skill course work is not completed within the 30 credit hour limit. Please contact the OJC Testing Center at 719-384-6948 for the assessment scores needed for college level placement.

Assessment Information

The Testing Center is located in McBride Hall Student Services Center. The phone number is: 719-384-6948, FAX: 719-384-6933. Online information can be found at: www.ojc.edu/placementTesting.aspx

Basic Skills Assessment Test

Students studying for a degree or certificate at OJC must take the assessment test before meeting with an advisor to enroll in classes. Otero Junior College uses the Accuplacer Placement Exam. This involves taking a test in reading, English and math. The purpose of the assessment is to help students succeed by placing them into courses appropriate to their academic skill level. Students will be required to enroll into appropriate English, math, or reading courses based upon their Accuplacer test scores. Students may want to review with the use of study guides if they have not had any math or English courses in a while. Students who would like to review before testing may access study guides on the OJC website.

Students may be exempt from one or more of the tests if they meet one of the following criteria:

1. Submit proof of an Associate degree or higher degree.
2. Submit transcripts showing the successful completion of basic-skills instruction in reading, writing or mathematics from another institution.
3. Submit transcripts showing the successful completion ("C" or better or its equivalent) in a college-level course in English and/or math from another institution.

4. Submit minimum ACT scores of 17 in reading, 18 in English, and 23 in math, or SAT scores of 440 in verbal and 460 in math.

NOTE: Students must submit copies of their college transcripts or ACT or SAT test scores to the Otero Junior College Student Services Center to receive an exemption from taking all or part of the assessment test.

Assessment for Distance Education Students

All students taking classes at OJC, including over the Internet and any other distance education courses, must meet the Basic Skills Assessment Test (BSAT) requirement. There are some exemptions to this policy based on ACT scores and previous coursework a student may have taken prior to OJC. Please refer to the exemptions policy information above. The goal at OJC is for all students to be successful in their coursework. The Basic Skills Assessment Test reveals subject areas of English, math and reading where there are strengths and weaknesses. In some subject areas, students may be able to take the classes without remediation.

The test required at OJC for placement into classes is the Accuplacer Exam. This test will need to be taken to enter college level English or math. It is delivered on most community college campuses; however, students cannot take the test at home or in an un-proctored environment.

To take these tests at a location other than OJC, out of state, or out of the country, students will need to contact the OJC Testing Center at 719-384-6948 and request a remote test proctor.