

PLACEMENT

As of the Fall 2021 semester, most NOVA students will not be required to take placement tests to determine placement for entry level English and Math courses.¹ Students' eligibility for course enrollment is based on their U.S. high school grade point average (GPA) or their standardized test scores (i.e. SAT, ACT, or GED). Students should complete the direct enrollment/self-informed placement survey (<http://www.nvcc.edu/academics/placement/>) to determine placement.

- A student's U.S. high school GPA is valid for 5 years after the date of high school graduation.
- Students who completed U.S. high school 6 or more years before applying to NOVA may select courses through informed self-placement. Students may consult the Informed Self Placement Advising Survey (<https://www.nvcc.edu/academics/placement/>) to help decide which classes to take.
- SAT, ACT, and GED test scores are valid for 5 years after the date of the test.

¹ The Virginia Placement Test (VPT) is still required for students who will receive veterans' benefits. Students who have not completed high school with a diploma recognized by the VCCS (http://catalog.nvcc.edu/mime/media/view/12/1873/VDOEhighschooldiplomatypes_April2022.pdf) or a GED, including dual enrollment students, will also be able to take the VPT under certain circumstances; students whose primary language is not English should take the Accuplacer.

Math Course Placement ¹

Course	Minimum Placement Requirement
MDE 10	1.99 or lower HS GPA
MDE 60	2.0 or higher HS GPA without HS Algebra 2
MTH 111, MTH 133	2.0 or higher HS GPA with or without HS Algebra 2
MTH 154 + MDE 54; MTH 155 + MDE 55	2.0-2.99 HS GPA with or without HS Algebra 2
MTH 154, MTH 155	3.0 or higher HS GPA with or without HS Algebra 2
MTH 161 + MDE 61	2.0-2.99 HS GPA with HS Algebra 2
MTH 161	3.0 or higher HS GPA with HS Algebra 2
MTH 167	3.0 or higher HS GPA with HS Algebra 2

SAT/ACT/GED Scores for Math Placement

Test	If you scored...	You may enroll in...
SAT-MTH	500 or above	MTH 111, MTH 133, MTH 154, MTH 155, MTH 161, MTH 167
SAT-MTH	470-490	MTH 111, MTH 133, MTH 154, MTH 155, MTH 161 + MDE 61
ACT-Subject Area Test Math	18 or above	MTH 111, MTH 133, MTH 154, MTH 155, MTH 161, MTH 167

ACT-Subject Area Test Math	17	MTH 111, MTH 133, MTH 154, MTH 155, MTH 161 + MDE 61
GED-MTH	165 or above	MTH 111, MTH 133, MTH 154, MTH 155, MTH 161 + MDE 61
GED-MTH	155-164	MTH 111, MTH 133, MTH 154 + MDE 54, MTH 155 + MDE 55, MDE 60
GED-MTH	154 or below	MDE 10

¹ The math course you take depends on your academic goals and program of study. Refer to the requirements in the catalog and contact an advisor for more information.

Placement into Higher-Level Math

- Recent high school graduates (students who graduated from high school within the last 5 years) may be placed into certain higher-level math courses based on their high school coursework. The student must provide a copy of their high school transcript for consideration. **A minimum GPA of 3.0 with at least Algebra II is required for consideration for placement into higher level math courses.** Placement into higher-level math courses is determined by the table below.

High School course	MTH 162	MTH 245	MTH 261	MTH 263
Math Analysis	A or B in Honors Course	A or B	A or B in Honors Course	N/A
Precalculus without Trigonometry	N/A	A or B	N/A	N/A
Precalculus with Trigonometry	A or B in Honors Course	A or B	A or B in Honors Course	N/A
Algebra III	A or B	A or B	A or B	N/A
Calculus	A or B	A or B	A or B	A or B
AP Calculus AB or BC	A or B	A or B	A or B	A or B
IB Math - Analysis and Approaches-Higher Level	A or B	A or B	A or B	A or B
Probability and Statistics	N/A	A or B	N/A	N/A
AP Statistics	N/A	A or B	N/A	N/A
Discrete Math	N/A	A or B	N/A	N/A

- Recent high school graduates who have a GPA of at least 3.0 and have taken at least Algebra II, but do not meet the grade criteria in the table above, may take the "Calculus only" portion of the VPT (CVPT) to determine placement into MTH 162 PreCalculus II, MTH 245 Statistics I, MTH 261 Applied Calculus I, or MTH 263 Calculus I. Contact NOVA Testing at nvcc.edu.
- Non-traditional students (students who graduated from high school more than 5 years ago) without college credit or with college coursework not analogous to NOVA course prerequisites and recent

high school graduates with international transcripts are permitted to take the CVPT to determine placement into MTH 162 PreCalculus II, MTH 245 Statistics I, MTH 261 Applied Calculus I, or MTH 263 Calculus I. Contact NOVATesting@nvcc.edu.

- Students who have already attempted a math course at NOVA are not permitted to take the CVPT to determine placement.
- Students with college credit may be placed into higher level math using prior college coursework, per VCCS Policy 6.4.0.2. A grade of C- or higher is acceptable for placement, although NOVA credit will not be awarded.
- Students enrolled in the prerequisite at another college or university may be permitted to enroll in a higher-level math course for the subsequent semester. Students may need to provide documentation that they have earned the required grade, per the prerequisite standards for the course, to avoid being dropped from the course.

Math Placement for International Students

Any student who has not completed high school in the U.S. must follow the guidelines below based on their documentation:

- U.S. University Transcript:
 - Unofficial Transcript: Send to mathplacement@nvcc.edu for placement approval.
 - Official Transcript: Send to the CRO (College Records Office (<https://www.nvcc.edu/about/offices/college-records-office/>)) for transfer credit evaluation.
- Foreign High School or University Transcript:
 - In English: Send to mathplacement@nvcc.edu for placement approval.
 - Not in English: Take the Math VPT (Virginia Placement Test).
- No High School or University Transcript:
 - Use the Self Informed Tools (<http://catalog.nvcc.edu/mime/media/view/12/1871/Math%20Course%20Selection.pdf>) provided by mathplacement@nvcc.edu or seek advising.

English Course Placement

Course	Minimum Placement Requirement
EDE 10. ESL students may take the ESL assessment for guidance	1.99 or lower HS GPA
ENG 111 + EDE 11. ESL students may take ENG 111 with ESL 95	2.0-2.99 HS GPA
ENG 111	3.0+ HS GPA
ENG 115	2.0+ HS GPA

SAT/ACT/GED Scores for English Placement

Test	If you scored...	You may enroll in...
SAT-ERW, Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	480 or above	ENG 111
SAT-ERW, Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	400-470	ENG 111 + EDE 11. ESL students may take ENG 111 with ESL 95
ACT, Subject Area Tests English and Reading	18 or above	ENG 111
ACT, Subject Area Tests English and Reading	15-17	ENG 111 + EDE 11. ESL students may take ENG 111 with ESL 95

ACT, Subject Area Tests English and Reading

EDE 10. ESL students may take the Accuplacer

GED-English	165 or above	ENG 111. ESL students may take ENG 111 with ESL 95
GED-English	164 or below	EDE 10. ESL Students may take the Accuplacer

TOEFL/IELTS/DuoLingo/Oxford ELLT Scores for English Placement

Test	If you scored...	You may enroll in...
TOEFL iBT	92 or higher	ENG 111
TOEFL iBT	76-91	ENG 111 + ESL 95
TOEFL iBT	59-75	ESL 51 + ESL 52
TOEFL iBT	43-58	ESL 41 + ESL 42
IELTS Band Average	7 or higher	ENG 111
IELTS Band Average	6.5	ENG 111 + ESL 95
IELTS Band Average	5.5-6	ESL 51 + ESL 52
IELTS Band Average	5	ESL 41 + ESL 42
DuoLingo	125+	ENG 111
DuoLingo	110-120	ENG 111 + ESL 95
DuoLingo	95-105	ESL 51 + ESL 52
DuoLingo	80-90	ESL 41 + ESL 42
Oxford ELLT	7-12	ENG 111

International students who do not have the above scores will need to take the Accuplacer. Students with scores lower than those listed above may contact ESL@nvcc.edu for additional guidance.

ACCUPLACER

What is the ACCUPLACER?

It has three parts and should take less than two hours to complete

How Do I Take the ACCUPLACER?

- First, complete the Online NOVA application. Then visit the Testing Center on campus. Appointments are recommended but not required. Find locations and hours for the Testing Centers here: [NOVA Testing Centers \(https://www.nvcc.edu/student-resources/technology/testing-centers/\)](https://www.nvcc.edu/student-resources/technology/testing-centers/).
- It is important to take the ACCUPLACER at a time you can do your best because you cannot immediately take it again.

Students take a placement test to assess their English proficiency *prior* to enrolling in ESL courses. Students who score 74 or below on the ACCUPLACER and students in F-1 status who place at College ESL Levels 2 and 3 are referred to the American Cultural Language Institute (ACLI). Students who score 75 or higher on the ACCUPLACER will place into College ESL or ENG 111 College Composition I based on the assessment results. In-state and out-of-state guidelines apply to the College ESL Program, and financial aid is available for those who qualify.

Accuplacer Assessment Timeline

Immediate Placement Notification

- **Scores 99 and Below:**
 - Students will receive immediate placement based on their scores:
 - **92-99 points:** ESL Level 3
 - **75-91 points:** ESL Level 2
 - **20-74 points:** ESL Level 1 (ACLI)

Essay Grading for Higher Scores

- **Scores 100 and Above:**
 - Essays will be evaluated by ESL Faculty. Students will receive their placement information via email, typically within **1 to 2 business days**, depending on faculty availability.

Class Identification

- **For Students Scoring 99 and Below:**
 - The Placement Result Message will list the ESL courses required based on the student's score.
- **For Students Scoring 100 and Above:**
 - An email will be sent containing placement details and a list of required ESL courses.

Student Notification

- **Scores 99 and Below:**
 - Students will be informed of their placement immediately upon test completion.
- **Scores 100 and Above:**
 - Students will receive an email notification within **1 to 2 business days**, contingent on ESL Faculty availability.