

COMPASS schedule



Review websites

2009

September

21

October

5

19

November

2

16

December

7

21

2010

January

4

18

February

1

15

March

1

15

April

5

19

May

3

17

Please contact
the NCC

Admissions Office
to schedule a time
that works for you.
Call 1-800-352-4907
or
1-712-324-5061.

This one has reviews for various tests
(some parts are free, some not):

http://www.testprepreview.com/compass_practice.htm

This one is a good review for math:

www.mhhe.com/math/devmath/aleks

This one is a good review for English:

<http://www.chompchomp.com/menu.htm>

Here's one additional COMPASS resource:

<http://www.act.org/compass/>

If you want any additional help,
please email or call
Susan Schmidt at
1-800-352-4907 ext. 112
sschmidt@nwicc.edu

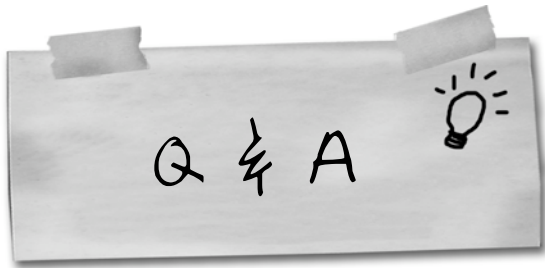


COMPASS Assessment



Northwest Iowa
Community College

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www.nwicc.edu



What is COMPASS?

The COMPASS program is a series of basic skills assessments completed on a computer. Developed by American College Testing (ACT), COMPASS stands for COMputer-adapted Placement Assessment and Support Services. This assessment allows you and Northwest Iowa Community College to work together to help you succeed in your courses. The COMPASS scores indicate your reading, writing and math levels to ensure the appropriate course selection.

Who takes the COMPASS?

COMPASS is required of all students who did not take the American College Test (ACT) in the past 5 years. COMPASS may also be waived if you have 30 or more college credits from another institution. If you did take the ACT, or if you have 30 or more college credits, you must forward your scores or college transcript to the NCC Admissions Office. If we do not receive these scores, you will be required to take COMPASS before registering for your courses.

What is the cost of the COMPASS Assessment?

The COMPASS Assessment is free. However, if a retest is required there is a \$10.00 fee for retaking one segment and a \$15.00 fee for retaking two or more segments.

But what if I have no computer experience?

COMPASS is user friendly and was designed for individuals with little or no computer experience. Our staff will assist you in getting started. COMPASS is self-directed. You will use a few keys to select your choices or you will highlight your responses as you move through the different tests. COMPASS is untimed! You can work at your own pace.

What is COMPASS like?

- The **writing segment** of the test consists of reading an essay and then correcting or editing it for the correct grammar and punctuation. The correct answer is suggested along with other choices. Once you have made your choices, go back through and read the entire essay to see that all elements fit together. In the second portion of the test, you look at the essay in its entirety and answer questions. Be sure you answer all questions before you “go on” because you cannot go back.
- Probably the best method for the **reading segment** is to read the entire essay, then go back and read the question and then re-read the paragraph that applies. Try to eliminate those you know are not correct and narrow your choices. Read it once more and make a choice.
- The **math segment** is both word problems and computations. Read each question all the way through. Pick out the numbers and try to decide which ones are used (not all are used) and how you will do the calculation. Just because you come up with one of the choices does not necessarily mean it is the correct answer. Review your math skills, especially how to work with fractions. You are supplied a simple calculator.

What if I fail COMPASS?

COMPASS is not a pass-fail test. It was developed to assist in college academic advising and course selection. The results help you choose courses and make appropriate career choices. In other words, your scores will indicate where your academic strengths and needs lie in relation to college level work for your chosen major. Should you require assistance, NCC offers developmental courses as well as free tutoring in our Learning Center. However, some programs require specific scores for acceptance.



1. **Relax!** The COMPASS tests are designed to help you succeed in college. Once you identify your strengths and weaknesses you can select the appropriate courses to help you improve your skills.
2. **Arrive a few minutes early** so you can locate the assessment area, restrooms, and “gather your thoughts” before testing.
3. **Ask questions** if you do not understand the process for COMPASS. NCC staff is available to assist you!
4. **Read each question** carefully until you understand what the question is asking.
5. **Try to respond** to all items presented to you even if you are not certain of the answer.

GOOD LUCK!

