



northern *State* university

Do you need to take any tests?

Based on South Dakota Board of Regents placement policies, students are enrolled in certain Math, English and Reading courses. Course numbers starting with 0 (ENGL 033, READ 041, MATH 021 and MATH 095) do not count toward graduation. ENGL-033 and READ-041 must be passed before moving on to other courses in the series. Although not required, MATH-021 and 095 may be recommended based on placement scores; however, all students have the option of beginning with MATH-101 instead.

You do not need to test:

- If you are satisfied with your placements.
- If you take the AP Calculus exam and/or the AP Language/Comp exam and earn a score of 3 or higher, as you will be awarded credit for Math 123 Calculus and ENGL 101, Composition, respectively.
- If you have passed ENGL 033, 101, READ 041, MATH 021, 095, 101, 102 or higher math from a SD BOR university, while in high school. Placement will be based on courses passed.
- If you are transferring in an English 101 equivalent or a Math 101 or higher equivalent credit from non-BOR schools. Placement will be based on courses passed.
- If you have a Math Index score and are satisfied with your math placement. Math Index score = ACT MATH x 17 + High School GPA x 250. If a Math Index cannot be calculated, ACCUPLACER or Smarter Balanced scores will be used.
- The READ 041 requirement will be waived if a student has earned an associate or baccalaureate degree or has completed a year sequence of English composition. In these cases, the Reading placement test is not needed.

You need to test:

- If you submitted SAT scores rather than ACT scores, you may need to take the ACCUPLACER Reading and/or Writing tests to determine proper placement into Reading and English courses. No fee is charged for these initial assessments.
- If you are 24 years old or older and do not have ACT or SAT scores taken within the last 5 years, take ACCUPLACER Writing, Reading and Math tests. No fee is charged.
- If you wish to challenge your placement. A small fee is charged per exam.

Testing should be considered for the following scenarios:

- If you place into ENGL 033, READ 041 or MATH 101 and have enrolled in math or English courses since testing, you may choose to challenge your placement by taking the ACCUPLACER test in applicable areas. A small fee is charged per exam.
- If you have a Math Index score of 1300 or higher, you may choose to take the Math ACCUPLACER Calculus Readiness exam to see if you can take MATH 123, Calculus instead of lower math courses for your math requirement. MATH 115 Pre-calculus, MATH 120 Trigonometry, and MATH 121 Survey of Calculus also satisfy the gen ed math requirement and may be taken with a math Index of 1300 or higher. No fee is charged for attempting to place in MATH 123.

Placement tests are online and should be taken prior to your registration day. Please call the NSU Testing Center in advance at 605-626-2029 for details.

CHEMISTRY

Students who plan to major in the sciences and have had Chemistry in high school, may wish to take the Chemistry placement test. Science majors need to take CHEM 112 & 114, a year long sequence of Chemistry as a pre-requisite to upper level courses. Experience in high school varies, so this test will help determine if you are ready for CHEM 112 or if you would benefit from starting with CHEM 106, Chemistry Survey. Allow about 15 minutes for this test. No fee is charged. You may take this test during advising/registration.