Placement and Proficiency Tests

ACT, SAT and ACT COMPASS scores are used to determine placement in university courses. Students whose scores indicate the need for additional preparation may be placed in courses designed to prepare them for college-level work. (See Arkansas Requirements for Developmental Course Placement [http://catalog.uark.edu/archives/2013-14/undergraduatecatalog/orientationandregistration].) Credit earned in such courses does not count toward degrees in all colleges. (See Courses That Do Not Count toward Degrees [http://catalog.uark.edu/archives/2013-14/undergraduatecatalog/orientationandregistration].)

Freshman Composition Placement
- Students with ACT English scores lower than 19, SAT verbal scores lower than 450, or ACT COMPASS writing skills lower than 80 should enroll in the course sequence ENGL 0002, ENGL 1013, and ENGL 1023.
- Students with ACT English scores of 19-27, SAT verbal scores of 480-620, or ACT COMPASS writing skills of 80 or higher should enroll in ENGL 1013 and ENGL 1023.
- Students with ACT English scores of 28-29 or SAT verbal scores of 630-670 may enroll in ENGL 1013 and ENGL 1023 or in Honors English (ENGL 1013H and ENGL 1023H).
- Students with ACT English scores greater than 29 or SAT verbal scores greater than 680 may enroll in Honors English (ENGL 1013H and ENGL 1023H) or elect exemption. Some degree programs require credit in composition, and students should confer with their advisers before exempting.

The Math Placement Test
All new first-year freshman students will be required to take the online mathematics placement assessment, available starting in April. To take the assessment, or for more information regarding it and its requirements, visit the University of Arkansas Mathematical Sciences website (http://math.uark.edu/3867.php).

Speech Communication Exemption Examination
Students who have had speech in high school and/or experience in public speaking may elect to take this test for exemption from or credit in COMM 1313. Both the written and oral (a five-minute impromptu speech) examinations must be passed to receive exemption or credit.

Foreign Language Placement Examinations
Students with previous foreign language experience in French, German, or Spanish are encouraged to take language placement examinations offered during summer orientation. Those test scores will be used by academic advisers to determine an appropriate foreign language placement level. Students who omit one or more courses in the basic language sequence will receive credit for omitted courses when they have validated their high placement by passing the course into which they were placed with a “C” or better. Conversation courses (3033, 4033) and self-paced (correspondence) courses may not be used to validate such prior knowledge; and no degree credit (graduation credit) is awarded for a foreign language 1003 course to students in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences unless they completed two years of a different language in high school.

General Chemistry Placement Examinations
These tests will be offered throughout the year. Students who performed at above average levels in high school chemistry may find it to their advantage to enroll directly in the second semester of general chemistry. This examination is designed to provide guidance in making this course selection. Students who place into the second semester of general chemistry and earn a grade of “C” or better in the course will also receive credit for the first semester of the course.

English Language Use by Non-Native Speakers
Non-native speakers of English admitted to undergraduate study at the University of Arkansas are required to present an acceptable score on one of the following tests: TOEFL (TWE), Internet based TOEFL (iBT) (writing), IELTS (writing), or ELPT (writing). Depending upon exam scores, a student may be required to take one or more EASL courses prior to the beginning of classes in their first term of study. Non-native speakers in the following categories are exempt from this requirement:

1. Undergraduate students who transfer at least 24 hours of credit from U.S. institutions, including courses that meet the freshman composition requirement;
2. Undergraduate students who have completed grades 10 through 12 in and graduated from a U.S. high school and have obtained an ACT English section score of 19 or above or a SAT verbal score of 460;
3. Graduate students who earned bachelors or master’s degrees from U.S. institutions or from foreign institutions where the official and native language is English;
4. Undergraduate students with a Test of Written English (TWE) score of 5.0 or iBT writing score of 28 or IELTS writing score of 6.5;
5. Graduate students with a Test of Written English (TWE) score of 5.0 or iBT writing score of 29 or IELTS writing score of 7.0;
6. Graduate students with a GRE Analytical Writing score of 4.5 or GMAT Analytical Score of 4.5.

Diagnostic and placement testing is designed to test students’ ability to use English effectively in an academic setting, and its purpose is to promote the success of non-native speakers in completing their chosen course of study at the University of Arkansas. Test results provide the basis for placement into English as a Second Language (EASL) support courses or course sequences. Courses are offered by the Department of Foreign Languages for those students whose language skills are diagnosed as insufficient for college-level work at the level to which they have been admitted (undergraduate or graduate study). Credit in EASL courses does not count toward University of Arkansas degrees. Non-native speakers diagnosed as having language competence sufficient for their level of study will not be required to enroll in EASL courses.

The ELPT is administered by Testing Services during New Student Orientation and there is a $10.00 charge.

Undergraduate and graduate students assessed EASL courses are required to complete these courses during their first semester of enrollment at the university.