TESTING INFORMATION
The following information was provided by
Richard D. Gampert, Ph.D.
Director of Institutional Research & Student Assessment

Reading Test
➢ COMPASS Reading Test is a computer adaptive test prepared by ACT
➢ Students typically get 5 or 6 reading passages, each with associated questions
➢ Untimed, but not unlimited time
➢ Scores range from 15 to 99
➢ The passing score is 70. (Students who took the test prior to Fall 2005 and passed with a 65 are still considered passing.)

Writing Test
➢ CUNY Assessment Test in Writing (CATW)
➢ Beginning on October 1, 2010, the CATW replaced the previous writing for both placement and exit testing.
➢ The CATW requires the student to read a brief passage (typically, 150 to 250 words) and then write an essay about the passage. Instructions about what is to be included in the essay are provided in the test.
➢ The test is 90 minutes (1 ½ hours).
➢ Students may use a printed dictionary during the test. Electronic dictionaries or similar devices are not permitted.
➢ Scoring is done by certified readers at the Bronx Borough Reading Center which is at Bronx Community College
➢ Each paper is scored on five (5) dimensions, with the scale on each dimension going from 1 (low) to 6 (high). The dimension scores are combined to obtain a weighted total score.
➢ Passing is a weighted total score of 56
➢ Readers may flag a test as being potentially or possibly ESL
➢ The most up-to-date information about the CATW can be found on the CUNY website: http://www.cuny.edu/academics/testing.html

Mathematics
➢ COMPASS Mathematics Test developed by ACT
➢ The test is computer adaptive
➢ Untimed, but not unlimited time
➢ Students are permitted to use the calculators on the computer; scratch paper is also provided (and collected)
➢ COMPASS Math has four (4) Parts:
  o Pre-Algebra (Part I)
  o Algebra (Part II)
  o College Algebra (Part III)
  o Trigonometry (Part IV, but displayed as Part V on SIMS)
➢ All students get Parts I and II
➢ Depending on performance, students are moved into Part III and then Part IV
➢ Students demonstrate proficiency by passing Part I and Part II, independently.
➢ As of March 2012, the passing score on Part I is 35 and the passing score on Part II is 40.
➢ Students needing retesting in only one part, retake only that part.
➢ COMPASS Math is NOT available in Spanish
## PLACEMENT CRITERIA FOR MATHEMATICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>PART I (PRE-ALGEBRA)</th>
<th>PART II (ALGEBRA)</th>
<th>PART III (COLLEGE ALGEBRA)</th>
<th>PART IV (TRIGONOMETRY)</th>
<th>PLACEMENT FOR EXEMPT STUDENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Programs</td>
<td>Below 35</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>MAT 10 or MAT 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Programs</td>
<td>35 or higher</td>
<td>Below 40</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>MAT 20 or MAT 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing (47), L.P.N (43), Radiologic Technology (48)</td>
<td>35 or higher</td>
<td>40 or higher</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>MAT 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Health (31)</td>
<td>35 or higher</td>
<td>40 or higher</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>MAT 120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Management (73)</td>
<td>35 or higher</td>
<td>40 or higher</td>
<td>Below 40</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>MAT 120 or MAT 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration (89) or Paralegal Studies (57)</td>
<td>35 or higher</td>
<td>40 or higher</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>MAT 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts--A.A. (37)</td>
<td>35 or higher</td>
<td>40 or higher</td>
<td>Below 40</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>MAT 30 or MAT 100 or MAT 120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts--A.S. (39) or Electrical Engineering (23) or Chemical Engineering (16) or Civil Engineering (72) or Mechanical Engineering (42) or Microcomputers for Business (45) or Accounting (02)</td>
<td>35 or higher</td>
<td>40 or higher</td>
<td>Below 40</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>MAT 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Programs (except 02,16,23,31,37,39,42,45,47,48,57,72,73, and 89)</td>
<td>35 or higher</td>
<td>40 or higher</td>
<td>Below 40</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>MAT 100 or MAT 120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Programs, as appropriate (except 43, 47 or 48)</td>
<td>35 or higher</td>
<td>40 or higher</td>
<td>40 or higher</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>MAT 160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Programs, as appropriate (except 43, 47 or 48)</td>
<td>35 or higher</td>
<td>40 or higher</td>
<td>61 or higher</td>
<td>50 or higher</td>
<td>MAT 210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Placement Criteria Updates

Because of the new writing test (the CATW), the placement criteria for reading and writing courses have changed. The table below shows the new placement criteria for reading and writing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATW Score (Writing Score)</th>
<th>COMPASS Reading Score</th>
<th>Writing Placement</th>
<th>Reading Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56 or higher</td>
<td>70 or higher</td>
<td>ENG 110</td>
<td>No Reading Course Needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56 or higher</td>
<td>69 or less</td>
<td>No Writing Course Needed</td>
<td>ENG 92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 to 55</td>
<td>80 or higher</td>
<td>ENG 94 or ENG 91</td>
<td>No Reading Course Needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 to 40</td>
<td>68 or less</td>
<td>ENG 89 or ENG 91</td>
<td>ENG 92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 or less</td>
<td>30 or less</td>
<td>CLIP</td>
<td>CLIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 or less</td>
<td>70 or higher</td>
<td>ENG 91</td>
<td>No Reading Course Needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 or less</td>
<td>69 or less</td>
<td>ENG 91</td>
<td>ENG 92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Placement in ESL courses and CLIP are done by the Placement Committee of the Department of Language and Cognition.

### Foreign Language Testing:
- Spanish Placement Test.
- The test is computer adaptive.
- The majority of students take about 20 minutes to complete the test
- Questions are in both English and Spanish (vocabulary, reading comprehension, grammar)
- Scores range from 0 to 950

### Foreign Language Placement:
- Working with the Modern Languages Unit of the Humanities Department, placement algorithms have been developed to place students into SPA 121, SPA 222, SPA 117
- Non-Spanish speaking students are placed into SPA 101, or FRE 101 or ITA 101.

### Exemptions from Testing and Placement
- SAT scores: students are exempt if they score above 480 on the verbal and/or quantitative parts of the SAT. Students with an exemption in mathematics are still tested for placement purposes on COMPASS Math.
- Regent’s scores on ELA: students are exempt from Reading and Writing if they score 75 or above on the ELA.
Regent’s scores in Math: a score of 75 or higher in one of the following: Math A, Math B, Sequential II, or Sequential III or a score of 80 or higher in Integrated Algebra, or Geometry, or Algebra 2 & Trigonometry AND successfully completing Algebra 2 & Trigonometry or higher-level math course.

Students with a prior B.A. from an accredited college or university: determination of this is done by UAPC. Any information provided by the student is sent, by Admissions, to UAPC in order for a determination to be made. However, if the language of instruction at their college was not English, these students can be tested, for placement purposes, in reading and writing.

Q-exemption: Students who have taken a 3 credit college level English course at an accredited college or university and received a grade of C or higher are exempt from reading and writing tests. (Note: the course must be an English course. Courses in English as a foreign language are not acceptable.)

Students who have taken a 3 credit college level Mathematics course at an accredited college or university and received a grade of C or higher are exempt from the mathematics test. Students receiving the Q exemption in mathematics are still required to take the COMPASS Mathematics test for placement purposes only.

The Q-exemptions are given regardless of whether the student receives transfer credit for the course(s) at Hostos.

Some Pointers About What the Office of Student Assessment Can and Cannot Do:

For CUNY transfer students

- CUNY Assessment Test scores MUST be in the CUNY computer system (SKAT). If the test scores are not in SKAT, the scores will transfer over to CUNYfirst.
- Student Assessment is NOT able to enter scores directly into CUNYfirst (as per CUNY regulations). Scores are entered into SKAT and then transfer to CUNYfirst. It takes about 1 hour for a score to migrate from SKAT to CUNYfirst.
- We cannot and will not accept paper transcripts or forms, even in a sealed envelope.
- It is the student’s responsibility to have the sending college enter the information into SKAT. Student Assessment can help, in an emergency, if necessary.

Exemptions from testing

- Regents and SAT exemptions: will be accepted and entered if they are on an official transcript or document in the Admissions Office. Exemptions can be entered into CUNYfirst by OSA.
- Bachelor degree (the B exemptions) MUST be approved and entered by UAPC on behalf of CUNY.
- Q-exemptions (based on courses) can be entered by Admissions and/or Student Assessment if the Transfer Credit Reviewer certifies that the course is equivalent to a college-level course. Exemptions can be entered into CUNYfirst by OSA.
Some Additional Pointers During Registration:

ɿ Do NOT send students to the Assessment Office to obtain a printout of the test scores from CUNYfirst or DegreeWorks. Either print it yourself or take the information directly from the screen. Students will be sent right back to you without the printout.

ɿ Faculty and staff have access to all student testing information in CUNYfirst and placements in DegreeWorks.

ɿ Do NOT advise/register students for a course that they have placed out of. CUNYfirst will not let the student register for those courses because of the complex pre-requisites, co-requisites, and anti-requisites built into the system. If a student cannot register for a course that you think he/she should be able to take, check to make sure the student’s testing information has been updated. Also, check the Student Groups to see which group the student belongs to, if any.

ɿ Do NOT send students to the Assessment Office for retesting because you think (or they think) that they could “do better this time.” Students cannot and will not be retested unless they have participated in an approved Hostos intervention of at least 20 hours or taken the appropriate course.

IMPORTANT NOTE regarding the CPE:

ɿ The CPE is no longer a requirement for graduation at CUNY. As such it is no longer administered. As appropriate, students should be advised of this.