# CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONTENTS</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have more questions?</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCUPLACER OVERVIEW</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOW ACCUPLACER WORKS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCUPLACER TEST SET-UP</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESTRICTIONS ON ACCUPLACER TESTING</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Placement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Takes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOW TO TAKE AN ACCUPLACER TEST</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you are taking the test at UNR</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you are taking the test at UNR’s Southern Office in Las Vegas</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAKING ACCUPLACER OUTSIDE NEVADA</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accuplacer is not standard between institutions</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Information</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What can students do?</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLACEMENT CUT OFF SCORES</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORE MATH SEQUENCE</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCUPLACER PAYMENT FORM</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCUPLACER SCORES FAX COVER</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACCUPLACER

Math Placement Information and Resource Guide

ACCUPLACER OVERVIEW
Placement tests are used to determine a student’s skill and readiness for certain college courses. Students are typically placed using their ACT or SAT scores. Accuplacer is another test that students can take to challenge the placement based on those scores.

The Accuplacer placement test is used by many colleges and universities as an additional placement tool beyond SAT/ACT exams. At UNR, Accuplacer is completely OPTIONAL and is ONLY used for placement in mathematics courses.

HOW ACCUPLACER WORKS
Accuplacer is a computer-based adaptive test. Questions are chosen based on how students answered previous questions. This technique selects the appropriate questions for the students’ ability level. Because the test works this way, students must answer every question when it is first given. The test is not timed so students are encouraged to take as much time as they need. They can change an answer to a particular question before moving on to the next question, but they cannot leave a question blank or come back to it later to change an answer.

Have more questions?

All the information in this handout can be found on our website at:
www.unr.edu/mathcenter

You’ll also find links to practice tests, math course information, tutoring and much, much more.
ACCUPLACER TEST SET-UP
At UNR students take the following Accuplacer tests:

- Elementary Algebra 12 Questions
- College Level Math 20 Questions

All students start at the beginning of the Elementary Algebra test. If they score high enough, Accuplacer will automatically lead them into the College Level Math test.

RESTRICTIONS ON ACCUPLACER TESTING
There are certain restrictions on Accuplacer testing. If students attempt to circumvent the following restrictions their scores will be invalid and a fine will be imposed in addition to the testing fee.

Initial Placement
Accuplacer testing is used for initial placement only this means that once a student has enrolled in and started a math course, only successful completion of the class will permit the student to enroll in the next course in the math series. In other words, once a student has started a math class, he or she cannot use Accuplacer to test out of a course.

Three Takes
Students can take the Accuplacer placement test up to three times. They must wait 48 hours between successive takes and each take costs $10.

HOW TO TAKE AN ACCUPLACER TEST
Students need to bring their NSHE ID number, a picture ID and a pencil or pen for doing work. Calculators are unnecessary and not allowed. Accuplacer provides an on-screen calculator when needed.
Payment
Before students can take the Accuplacer test they must first pay a testing fee of $10. This fee is paid via MyNEVADA. If you are taking the test the next day or later, MyNEVADA will email students a receipt of the transaction that evening. Students need to bring this receipt to the testing site when they come in to take the test.

If you are taking the test the same day, either print a screen shot of your transaction or show the reference number to the front desk.

If you are taking the test at UNR.
Accuplacer is administered in the William Raggio Building, Room 1003. No appointment is necessary but in order to provide adequate time for testing, students must arrive 90 minutes before closing.

*NOTE: For Fall 2016 registration Accuplacer testing begins April 6th. Testing hours will be Wednesdays: 1pm-6pm and Saturdays: 11am-3pm. Testing hours will change (expand) the first week of June. Please check: http://www.unr.edu/math-center/accuplacer-info for updated information.

If you are taking the test at UNR’s Southern Office in Las Vegas.
Students must make an appointment to take the Accuplacer test at the Las Vegas site. Please call: 702-940-5416 to schedule a time. Testing hours are from 9am to 3pm, Monday - Friday.

**TAKING ACCUPLACER OUTSIDE NEVADA**
We strongly encourage students to take Accuplacer through UNR. If students do not have the opportunity to take Accuplacer in Reno, Las Vegas or at any of the other colleges in Nevada, they can take it at a local college or university outside Nevada.

Unfortunately, College Board does not provide a list of institutions or testing sites that give Accuplacer. Additionally, neither the Math/Stats Department nor the Math Center has this information. Students and parents should call surrounding colleges and universities to ask if they offer Accuplacer testing.
Policies:

- The scores must be faxed directly from the testing center at the local institution and not from the student, parent, high school teacher, etc.

- The fax should be sent to the Math Center: (775-784-1080) and **MUST** be accompanied by the completed cover sheet attached at the end of this document.

- The Math Center will only accept the official "Score Report" print out from Accuplacer.

- The score reports vary slightly from institution to institution. Each college or university can determine what is printed on the score report. In order to be valid for UNR placement the score report **must** contain the following:
  
  - The student's first and last name, and date of birth.
  - The **raw** scores from the Accuplacer tests.
  - The date the student took the test.

*Please note that students will have to abide by any and all policies/fees set by the other institutions.

**Additional Information**

Unlike the ACT and SAT, Accuplacer is NOT "standard" from school to school.

There are a number of variables and settings that each institution can change and individualize to suit the needs of their curriculum. While this is an advantage for the school it can cause issues when students want to take Accuplacer at another site.

Accuplacer offers three different math tests. These tests are successive and the score on the previous exam determines whether or not a student is allowed to continue on to the next exam. UNR uses two of these exams: the Elementary Algebra (EA) and the College Level Math (CLM). How well students do on the EA determines whether or not they get to take CLM.
UNR’s cutoff score for the EA is 80. For example, if students score a 78 they will not be prompted to take the CLM. If they score 89, they will be prompted to continue on to the CLM. Issues arise when students take Accuplacer at an institution where the cutoff score for the EA is different.

Here are two different scenarios.

Let’s say that Jane is trying to place into Math 127. She needs to score at least an 80 on the EA and at least an 84 on the CLM.

Scenario 1: Jane goes to CollegeA to take Accuplacer where the cutoff score for the EA is 75. She takes the test and scores 77 on the EA and 85 on the CLM. Unfortunately, when the scores are submitted to UNR, she will not be allowed to enroll in Math 127 because she didn't score high enough on the EA.

Scenario 2: Jane takes Accuplacer at CollegeB where the cutoff score for the EA is 100. She takes the test and scores a 95 on the EA. Since she didn't make that 100 mark, Jane isn't allowed to proceed on to the CLM as she would have been allowed at UNR.

What can students do?
We highly encourage all students to take Accuplacer at UNR or at UNR’s Southern Nevada Office in Las Vegas. This will guarantee all the correct policies and cutoff scores are in place. Accuplacer can be taken at UNR up until the second week of classes.

Parents and students are often anxious about placing into a math class early in order to register as soon as possible. Most are concerned that classes will fill up and there won’t be an open spot in the class that is needed. The Department of Mathematics and Statistics makes every effort to ensure that all students are able to get into the classes they need.
**PLACEMENT CUT OFF SCORES**

Please note the cut-off scores listed below are subject to change. The Math Center webpage [www.unr.edu/mathcenter](http://www.unr.edu/mathcenter) will have the most up-to-date scores. ACT/SAT scores are the default method of placement for math courses and the one that the Mathematics and Statistics department encourages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>ACT Math</th>
<th>SAT Math</th>
<th>Prerequisite Course</th>
<th>Accuplacer Placement Tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Elementary Algebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 095</td>
<td>&lt;19</td>
<td>&lt;470</td>
<td></td>
<td>less than 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 096</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>Math 095 C/S</td>
<td>at least 76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math 120</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>Math 096 C/S</td>
<td>at least 80 <strong>AND</strong> at least 55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 126</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>Math 096 C/S</td>
<td>at least 80 <strong>AND</strong> at least 55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 127</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>Math 126 C-</td>
<td>at least 80 <strong>AND</strong> at least 84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 128</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>610</td>
<td></td>
<td>at least 80 <strong>AND</strong> at least 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 176</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>Math 126 C-</td>
<td>at least 80 <strong>AND</strong> at least 84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stat 152</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>Math 126 C-</td>
<td>at least 80 <strong>AND</strong> at least 84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 181</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>Math 127/128 C-</td>
<td>at least 80 <strong>AND</strong> at least 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 120E</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>Math 095 C/S</td>
<td>at least 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 126E</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>480</td>
<td></td>
<td>at least 80 <strong>AND</strong> at least 30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Updated March 2016
CORE MATH SEQUENCE
The following is the core math course sequence at UNR. For detailed information about each course, please visit: www.unr.edu/mathcenter/corecourses.

MATH 095: Elementary Algebra
No credits received toward degree, DOES NOT satisfy core math requirement

MATH 096: Intermediate Algebra
No credits received toward degree, DOES NOT satisfy core math requirement

MATH 120E: Fundamentals of College Math
(Stretch Math 120)
4 credit course
3 credits of Math 120
1 credit of Math 096

MATH 120: Fundamentals of College Math
Not a preparatory course for any other math course

MATH 126: Pre-Calculus I
Effective Spring 2012, satisfies core math requirement.

MATH 126E: Pre-Calculus I
(Stretch Math 126)
5 credit course
3 credits of Math 126
2 credits of Math 096

STAT 152: Introduction to Statistics

MATH 127: Pre-Calculus II

MATH 176: Business Calculus
Not intended as prep for Calculus I

MATH 128: Pre-Calculus and Trigonometry
5 credit, 1 semester alternative to MATH 126 and MATH 127

MATH 181: Calculus I
First course in the 12 credit Calculus series.
Date:____________________

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name (last, first): _____________________________________________

NSHE ID number:_______________________ ______________________

Phone number:_______________________________________________

Date of birth: ________________________________

INSTITUTION INFORMATION:

Name of Institution: ____________________________________________

Location (City, State): __________________________________________

Name of Testing Director: _______________________________________

Phone number of Testing Center: ________________________________

Fax Number of Institution: _________________________________