

ACCUPLACER

Information and Resource Guide
for Incoming Students and Parents



Math Center
University of Nevada, Reno



CONTENTS

ACCUPLACER OVERVIEW	2
HOW ACCUPLACER WORKS.....	2
<i>Have more questions?</i>	2
ACCUPLACER TEST SET-UP	3
RESTRICTIONS ON ACCUPLACER TESTING	3
Initial Placement.....	3
Three Takes	3
HOW TO TAKE AN ACCUPLACER TEST.....	3
If you are taking the test at UNR.....	4
If you are taking the test at UNR’s Southern Office in Las Vegas.....	4
TAKING ACCUPLACER OUTSIDE NEVADA.....	4
Additional Information.....	5
<i>Accuplacer is not standard between institutions</i>	5
What can students do?	6
PLACEMENT CUT OFF SCORES.....	7
CORE MATH SEQUENCE	8
FORM: Accuplacer Fee	9
FORM: Fax Cover Accuplacer Scores.....	10

by Danelle Clarke, Math Center Director 6/2011



ACCUPLACER

Information and Resource Guide for Incoming Students and Parents

ACCUPLACER OVERVIEW

Placement tests are used to determine a student's skill and readiness for certain college courses. Many students use their ACT or SAT scores to determine placement. For students who either do not have ACT/SAT scores or wish to challenge their placement based on those scores, Accuplacer is another option.

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 can not 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.

ACCUPLACER



If you are taking the test at UNR.

The Math Center gives Accuplacer tests at the UNR campus. No appointment is necessary but in order to provide adequate time for testing, students must arrive 90 minutes before closing (please see our website site for hours of operation).

Before students can take the Accuplacer test they must first pay a testing fee of \$10. This fee has to be paid at the Cashier's Office (located in the Fitzgerald Student Services Building –Third Floor) the Math Center can not accept any money for placement testing. The form for the payment can be found on our website and at the end of this document.

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.

There is a \$10 fee for taking an Accuplacer test. Students must bring a check or money order. Cash, debit or credit cards can not be accepted.

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, CollegeBoard 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.

ACCUPLACER



- 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:

*Accuplacer is
not standard
between
institutions*



Accuplacer is designed so that colleges and universities can tailor exams and settings to meet the needs of their student body.

While this helps make Accuplacer a good placement tool, it can cause issues if students want to transfer scores in between institutions.

- 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.

ACCUPLACER



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.**

ACCUPLACER



PLACEMENT CUT OFF SCORES

Please note the cut-off scores listed below are subject to change. The Math Center webpage 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.

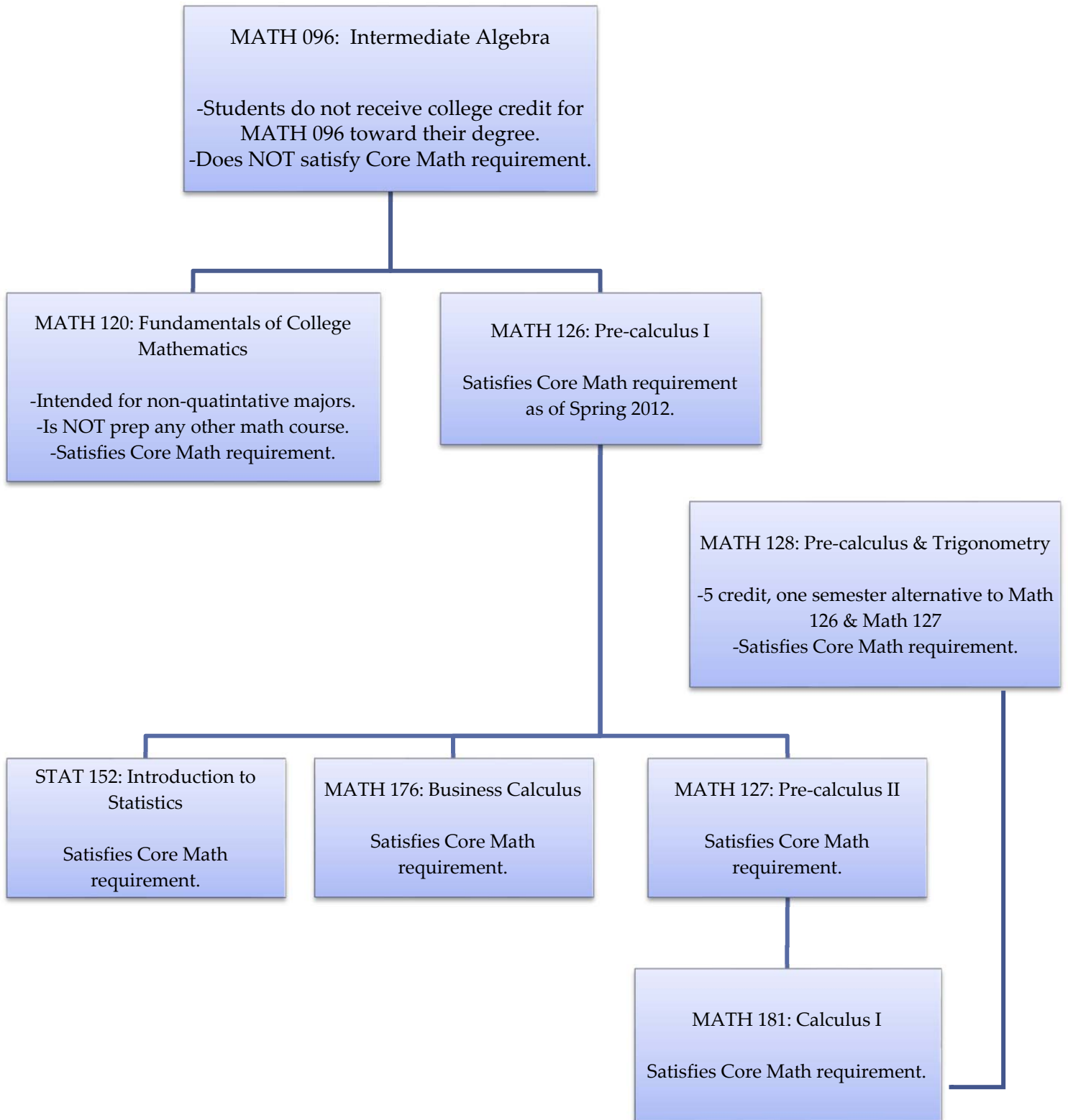
Courses	ACT Math	SAT Math	Prerequisite Course	Accuplacer Placement Tests	
				Elementary Algebra	College Level Math
Math 096	17	470	-----	at least 76	-----
Math 120	22	500	Math 096 C/S	at least 80 <i>AND</i> at least 63	
Math 126	22	500	Math 096 C/S	at least 80 <i>AND</i> at least 63	
Math 127	27	610	Math 126 C-	at least 80 <i>AND</i> at least 84	
Math 128	27	610	-----	at least 80 <i>AND</i> at least 70	
Math 176	27	610	Math 126 C-	at least 80 <i>AND</i> at least 84	
Stat 152	27	610	Math 126 C-	at least 80 <i>AND</i> at least 84	
Math 181	28	630	Math 127/128 C-	at least 80 <i>AND</i> at least 101	

Updated June 2011



CORE MATH SEQUENCE

The following is the core math course sequence at UNR. Please visit www.unr.edu/mathcenter/corecourses for detailed information about each course.



Accuplacer Testing Form

Accuplacer is the online test used by UNR for initial mathematics and statistics course placement. Students are allowed to take Accuplacer up to three times; each take cost \$10 each. **Students must pay this fee at the Cashier's Office, the Math Center cannot accept any money for placement testing.**

To take Accuplacer please follow these steps:

1. Take this form to the Cashier's Office, located in the *Fitzgerald Student Services Building –Third Floor*.
2. Pay the \$10 testing fee. The staff at the Cashier's Office will stamp this form.
3. Go to the Math Center to take Accuplacer; the Math Center is located in *Ansari Business Building Room 610*.

You will need:

- This form stamped by the staff at the Cashier's Office.
- Your receipt from the Cashier's Office.
- A photo ID.
- Your NSHE ID number (a 10 digit number that can be found on MyNevada).
- At **least** 90 minutes to complete your test; for Math Center hours visit: www.unr.edu/mathcenter/schedule.html.

IMPORTANT:

Students are NOT eligible to take Accuplacer if they have:

- a. taken a math/stats course at UNR (this includes courses with a "Withdrawal" grade)
- b. already taken the Accuplacer test three times

For more information about Accuplacer and math placement see our website: www.unr.edu/mathcenter.

Name - PLEASE PRINT

Student ID number

Date of Test*

*To be filled out by Math Center Staff

This certifies that \$10.00 has been received from the above named person for deposit in Account # 1200-114-2809-6809, Math Center Accuplacer Account.

Cashier: _____ Date: _____

Mathematics Center

Mailstop 085
Reno, NV 89557
(775) 784-4433
Fax: (775) 784-1080

<http://www.unr.edu/mathcenter>
mathcenter@unr.edu



Accuplacer Scores

Fax Cover

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: _____