

**Examples of Possible ASSET, ACT and COMPASS "Stage 1" Cut Off Scores
for Consideration in Student Course Placement Advising**

The tables below include "Stage 1" estimates of ACT and COMPASS scores that are estimated to place the same percentage of students into each course as the ASSET scores shown (based on analyses of ASSET and ACT results for students who have completed these tests, and ASSET and COMPASS results for students entering several community and technical colleges); "Stage 2" modified/refined cut scores are developed by a college based on the results for its own students and its own curriculum as an outcome of a study of the relationship between COMPASS (or ASSET) scores and student grades in courses; the Course Placement Service available from ACT can be used to provide the necessary information and analyses.

For institutions using other ASSET cut scores not shown in these tables, ACT or COMPASS "Stage 1" cut scores are also available from ACT (no charge). To obtain this information, FAX the current ASSET cut scores being used, course names, and copies of course descriptions from the college catalog to Dr. John Roth at ACT in Iowa City, Iowa (FAX 319/337-1790).

I. WRITING SKILLS

ASSET Writing Skills Scores	ACT English Scores	COMPASS Writing Skills Scores	Course Recommendations by Faculty
23-34 (20%)*	0-13	0-37	English Development 1
35-40 (31%)	14-17	38-69	English Development 2
41-54 (49%)	18-36	70-100	Freshman English

II. READING SKILLS

ASSET Reading Skills Scores	ACT Reading Scores	COMPASS Reading Scores	Course Recommendations by Faculty
23-34 (17%)*	0-13	0-60	Reading Development 1
35-40 (29%)	14-17	61-80	Reading Development 2
41-53 (54%)	18-36	81-100	No Reading Required

- Indicates % of Fall 2003 National ASSET participants on this test at community and technical colleges whose performance fell into the score ranges shown (for data returned to ACT; based on 69,509 sets of data); see pages 15 and 18.01 and beyond in the Fall 2003 National ASSET Entering Student Descriptive Report (ESDR) for similar information regarding different cut scores. Copies of the Fall 2003 National ESDR's are available at the ACT web pages for ASSET (www.act.org/asset) and COMPASS/ESL (two-year colleges, 314,854 records; four-year colleges/universities, 45,139 records) (www.act.org/compass)

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III. MATH SKILLS

ASSET Scores	ACT Math	COMPASS Scores	Course Recommendations
Numerical Skills		PreAlgebra	
23-40 (71%)*	0-17	0-43	Arithmetic Review experiences
41-55 (29%)	18-20	44-100	Elementary Algebra or courses with arithmetic prerequisite
Elementary Algebra		Algebra	
23-40	18-20	0-45	Elementary Algebra or courses with arithmetic prerequisite
41-55	21-22	46-65	Intermediate Algebra or courses with elementary algebra prerequisite
Intermediate Algebra			
23-40	21-22	46-65	Intermediate Algebra or courses with elementary algebra prerequisite
41-55	23-25	66-100	College Algebra or courses with intermediate algebra prerequisite
College Algebra		College Algebra	
23-40	23-25	0-45	College Algebra or courses with intermediate algebra prerequisite
41-55	26-27	46-100	Trigonometry or Business Calculus or courses with college algebra prerequisite
		Trigonometry	
	26-27	0-45	Trigonometry or Business Calculus or courses with college algebra prerequisite
	28-36	46-100	Calculus I or courses with college algebra and trigonometry prerequisites

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Diagnostic Tests Available within the COMPASS/ESL System:

Pre-Algebra

1. Integers
2. Decimals
3. Exponents, Square Roots, and Scientific Notation
4. Ratios and Proportions
5. Fractions
6. Percentages
7. Averages (means, medians, and modes)

Writing Skills

1. Punctuation
2. Spelling
3. Capitalization
4. Usage
5. Verb Formation/Agreement
6. Relationships of Clauses
7. Shifts in Construction
8. Organization

Algebra

8. Substituting Values ^a
9. Setting up Equations ^a
10. Factoring Polynomials ^c
11. Exponents and Radicals ^b
12. Basic Operations/Polynomials ^b
13. Linear Equations/One Variable ^a
14. Linear Equations/Two Variables ^a
15. Rational Expressions ^c

Reading

1. Reading Comprehension
2. Vocabulary
3. Reader Profile

For students that may be "rusty" in their elementary or intermediate algebra skills who would like more direction as to what specific areas to work on to improve their placement test performance (to score higher on a retest, thus earning placement into Intermediate Algebra, instead of Elementary Algebra), the Algebra diagnostics marked with ^a or ^b are suggested for consideration for students that have scored low (25-40) on the COMPASS Algebra placement test. The Algebra diagnostics marked with ^b or ^c are suggested for consideration for "rusty" students that have scored in the range of 44-60 on the Algebra placement test (to score higher on retesting, thus earning placement into College Algebra, instead of Intermediate Algebra).

General Suggestions Regarding Use of COMPASS Diagnostics Scores:

Perhaps Three Levels of Messages to Students for Each Diagnostic; Each Message Includes References to Specific Units or Chapters of Materials (such as PLATO, etc) to Help Develop Needed Skills, Along with Suggested Steps, Location Information, Web Page Information, Costs, etc, for Accessing the Resources

Cut Scores for the Three Levels, Are Locally Determined (although the following suggestions may be helpful as possible starting points):

-Low (0-40): Fully Work Through the Related Units/Chapters; Use the HS or College Learning Center Tutoring Services

-Mid-range (41-65/75): Take Chapter Quiz in the Related Units/Chapters; Work Through Sections Needing Review; Use HS or College Learning Center Tutoring Services

-Upper-range (65/75-100): Review Materials or Go On To Next Area Needing Additional Work

Offer/Require Retesting to Confirm Material Has Been Mastered

NOTE: The COMPASS/ESL Internet Version allows each Test Center to develop unlimited length placement and diagnostic messages, to guide the student to next steps and resources that can help. The COMPASS/ESL Windows Version allows messages of up to eight (8) lines of text.