

# Mature Student Testing FAQ

## What is Mature Student Testing?

Mature student testing may be required for applicants who do not meet the admission requirements for their specific programs. In that case, a student may be requested by the admissions office to complete a Mature Student English Test (reading comprehension, sentence skills and writing skills) and/or math. The testing is done using a tool called Accuplacer and is designed to measure the level of educational achievement among adults.

## What's an Accuplacer Test?

We will be using a tool called ACCUPLACER to test your proficiency. All ACCUPLACER tests use a multiple-choice format. There are two parts to the test: Reading (20 questions) and Writing (25 questions). There's no time limit on the tests, so you can focus on doing your best to demonstrate your skills. Please book 3 hours out of your schedule to give yourself enough time to focus. If you finish early, you're welcome to leave when you're done.

ACCUPLACER uses the latest computer-adaptive technology, which means the questions you see are based on your skill level. Your response to each question determines the difficulty level of the next question, so it's important to give each question as much thought as you can before selecting your answer.

## What do I need in order to write the Accuplacer Test?

To write your test, you will need laptop/computer, with working microphone and video, and reliable access to the internet. You may also use a writing tool and 2 pieces of blank/scrap paper. You can check that you meet technology requirements by going to:

<https://www.accuplacer.org/#/systemRequirement>

In some instances, a tablet may be used for microphone/video access if it's not possible for the tester to access a laptop/computer with a microphone/video. However, **the test itself MUST be done from a laptop/desktop computer. It cannot be written from a tablet or smartphone. This is why it is important to attend the Orientation to discuss these issues before your test.**

## OK, first I need to book an Orientation. What happens at this Orientation?

Orientation session is a 15 minute virtual meeting with our Mature Student Testing team. The Orientation is NOT the test. The purpose of this session is to review what to expect on test and day make sure that your equipment meets the minimum requirements in order to write your test.

**Please attend the orientation from the laptop/computer you plan to use for the test.**

In order to successfully write the test, at the orientation we will help you ensure that you have the following:

- 1) Working webcam
- 2) Working audio
- 3) Ability to Screen Share (We will practice this at the orientation by having you go to <https://www.accuplacer.org/> and share your screen)
- 4) A computer with the minimum System Requirements (Check this by visiting <https://www.accuplacer.org/> and clicking on Verify System Requirements)

At the end of the Orientation, staff will help you to will select a time within the following 1-2 weeks to book your Mature Student Test.

### **What can I expect on test day?**

On the day of the test, please join the Zoom meeting using the link sent to you. A staff member will meet you in the Zoom meeting and provide an overview of the test, answer your questions, and get you set up to write the test. Before the test begins you will be required to:

- Sit in a quiet place where you will be undisturbed and alone\* while testing.
- Turn on your video and microphone, and share your screen.
- **Show your photo ID to the Test Proctor so they can verify your identity.**
- Use your computer or laptop camera to show the room you are writing in, as well as your desk. The Proctor needs to verify that you are alone and ensure you only have the permitted items (your monitor/laptop, mouse, keyboard, two sheets of blank scratch paper, and pencil. **All other items must be removed from your table/desk (within reason).**
- Provide remote control of your device to the Proctor so that they can log you into your ACCUPLACER account. The Proctor will walk you through this step by step but you can learn more about the process here: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362673-Requesting-or-giving-remote-control>

*\*We wholeheartedly acknowledge that many of us are at home with family and children and may not always have a space to be completely alone. Please let us know if this is the case for you.*

During the entire test, you must keep your video and microphone on, as well as share your screen. This is how staff will monitor the test. The staff member will be available throughout your test if you have questions or concerns. You are asked to remain at your seat for the duration of the test, except for a break halfway through the test.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us at [MatureStudentTesting@fnti.net](mailto:MatureStudentTesting@fnti.net) . I understand this is a lot of information and this may be your first time writing a test remotely. Rest assured we are here to provide a secure and comfortable testing environment and support you through this process.

Don't forget to prepare, as this is a key to success!

### **How can I prepare for the test?**

The Mature Student Test consists of two parts:

#### **Accuplacer Next-Generation Reading (20 Multiple choice questions; no time limit)**

*This assessment measures a student's ability to understand what he or she has read. The broad knowledge and skill areas being assessed are:*

- **Information and ideas** – reading closely, determining central ideas and themes, summarizing, understanding relationships
- **Rhetoric** – analyzing word choice rhetorically, analyzing text structure, analyzing point of view, analyzing purpose, analyzing arguments
- **Synthesis** – analyzing multiple texts and being able to make connection
- **Vocabulary** – focusing on figuring out the meaning of words and phrases in the contexts in which they appear

#### **Accuplacer Next-Generation Writing (25 Multiple choice questions; no time limit)**

*The assessment measures a student's ability to revise and edit multi-paragraph text. The broad knowledge and skill areas being assessed include:*

- Expression of ideas (development, organization, effective language use)
- Standard English conventions (sentence structure, usage, and punctuation)

Use these materials to help you study and practice (all are free, please ignore any ads or links that tell you to make a purchase):

Introduction: Mature Student Testing using the ACCUPLACER tool:

[ACCUPLACER – What’s on the Tests?](#)

- [ACCUPLACER Reading Sample Questions](#)
- [ACCUPLACER Writing Sample Questions](#)

Video Tutorials

- [Overview of ACCUPLACER Assessments](#)
- [Next Generation Reading – Tips and Techniques](#)
- [Next Generation Writing – Tips and Techniques](#)

Practice Tests

- [ACCUPLACER Reading Practice Test 1](#)
- [ACCUPLACER Reading Practice Test 2](#)

ACCUPLACER Writing Practice Test

- [Printable Sample Practice Questions](#)

Study Guides

- [Next-Generation Reading](#)
- [Next Generation Writing](#)

The [Caz Academy Test Preparation Channel](#) has many videos that focus on specific components of the [Reading](#) and [Writing](#) Assessments.

### **How long do I have to write the test?**

The ACCUPLACER assessment is not timed. We have scheduled three hours for this test. Please reserve the full 3 hours for your test to allow you time to focus (don't plan any appointments, pick-ups, etc). You may leave whenever you're finished the test.

### **What tools am I allowed to access during the test?**

For your test, you are permitted to use two sheets of blank scrap paper and a pencil/pen.

No dictionaries, no phones. For some questions, there will be a dictionary on screen to help you define a word related to the question.

### **Can someone help me write the Accuplacer test?**

No, you must write it yourself and no one can help you during the test. If we find evidence of cheating, the test will be stopped and you will need to rebook. Questions will change between testing attempts so you will receive a new set of questions.

### **I need a tool for my needs related to accessibility/learning disability. Can I use that for the Accuplacer Test?**

Please contact *both* [access@fnti.net](mailto:access@fnti.net) and [MatureStudentTesting@fnti.net](mailto:MatureStudentTesting@fnti.net) in one email to request accommodations.

### **What happens after the test?**

Once the test is completed – the results are sent to the Admissions office. If you have reached obtain the minimum score needed to get into the program, Admissions will contact you for the next steps in the admission process. If you did not reach the minimum score, someone from our office will reach out to you and discuss potential next steps which could include academic upgrading or retesting.

### **What happens if I fail?**

A student who does not achieve the required college readiness placement score on the initial test be given a chance to retest two weeks (14 days) from their initial test date. If they do not achieve the desired score after their second test, it is recommended that the student test for the third time only after three months (90 days) have elapsed from their first retest:

Example:

Initial Test Date of January 1

First Retest: January 15 (14 days later)

Second Retest: April 2 (3 months later)

Third/Subsequent Retests: May 3 (30 days later), June 4 July 5

These wait times are recommended to give students more time to focus on improving their score by identifying possible areas for improvement. Students should be encouraged to use the two-week waiting period for study and review of test content areas in which they did not obtain a passing score. You can find practice tests online here:

<https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/students/prepare-for-accuplacer/practice>

### **I need to rebook my Orientation or Test. Who should I contact?**

Please contact [MatureStudentTesting@fnti.net](mailto:MatureStudentTesting@fnti.net) with your name, original booking date, and with your preferred rebooking date. You may rebook your orientation/test a maximum of 2 times to respect the time of our staff and to give other students a fair chance at timeslots.

**I need to cancel last minute. Who should I contact?**

Please contact [MatureStudentTesting@fnti.net](mailto:MatureStudentTesting@fnti.net) with your name, original booking date, and with your preferred rebooking date. You may rebook your orientation/test a maximum of 2 times to respect the time of our staff and to give other students a fair chance at timeslots. Your test will only be rebooked once you receive confirmation from one of our staff.

**How many times can I cancel/rebook my test?**

We understand that life happens and emergencies can occur. To respect our staff resources and protect opportunities for other applicants to have their fair chance to write with us, we have a 3 strike rule for cancelations and no shows. Your test will only be rebooked once you receive confirmation from one of our staff.

**I've decided to withdraw my application to FNTI and no longer need Mature Student Testing. Who should I contact?**

Please contact [MatureStudentTesting@fnti.net](mailto:MatureStudentTesting@fnti.net) AND [admissions@fnti.net](mailto:admissions@fnti.net).