Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the placement exams?
The purpose of placement testing is to determine accurately the level of students’ prior learning in order to place students in appropriate level courses.

Why are the placement exams important for students?
Placement exams help students to enroll in the appropriate courses, in which they are prepared to be successful. Accurate placement also helps keep seats available in high-demand courses for students who need and are prepared for them.

Why should students take placement exams seriously?
Placement exams cannot be repeated; therefore, students should approach a placement exam like any other final exam. If a student places into a course for which he or she is not fully prepared, it could result in a poor course grade, which affects academic standing, scholarships, and financial aid.

How do students take placement exams?
Students should go to placement.umn.edu at least two weeks prior to their scheduled orientation date. Students should use their U of M Internet ID and password to log into the placement system. Colleges assign appropriate placement exams to students, and assigned exams will appear once students log into the placement website.

Students should be aware that once a placement exam has begun it cannot be stopped, paused, or restarted on a later date; therefore, they should anticipate and allow enough time for the whole exam. Students are informed of exam lengths in advance of beginning exams. The exam lengths are as follows:

- Calculus Test: 65 minutes
- Chemistry Test: 48 minutes
- Algebra Test: 65 minutes
- General Math Test: 125 minutes
- General Math 2 Test: 125 minutes

Each exam comes with a set of practice questions that students can complete before they take the official exam. If technical problems arise while taking the exams, students should be encouraged to contact the Placement Testing Help Desk by emailing fouryear@umn.edu.

How are the placement results used by academic advisers?
Advisers use placement exams to help students with course registration. Depending on a student’s score, an adviser is able to advise students to take the appropriate level math or chemistry course when they enter the University of Minnesota.

My computer crashed during the test, can my test be reset?
Students should contact fouryear@umn.edu and explain the computer problems.
I believe that the wrong placement test was assigned to me; can I be assigned a different exam?
If a student believes they may have been assigned the wrong placement exam they should contact their college office using the contact information below.

Do I have to take the test?
Yes, students need to take assigned test(s) to help with course selection when they come to orientation.

For more information, contact your college student services advising office:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Student Services</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBS</td>
<td>Student Services</td>
<td><a href="mailto:newincbs@umn.edu">newincbs@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>612-624-9717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDes</td>
<td>Student Services, Mary Vincent Franco</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cdesinfo@umn.edu">cdesinfo@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>612-626-3690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEHD</td>
<td>Student Services</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cehdnew@umn.edu">cehdnew@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>612-625-3339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFANS</td>
<td>Student Services</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cfanssso@umn.edu">cfanssso@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>612-624-6768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLA</td>
<td>Student Services</td>
<td><a href="http://iamnew.class.umn.edu/">http://iamnew.class.umn.edu/</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CSE</td>
<td>Academic Advising</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cseadvising@umn.edu">cseadvising@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>612-624-2890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSOM</td>
<td>Undergraduate Program Office, Lindsay Prowizor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:prowi004@umn.edu">prowi004@umn.edu</a></td>
<td>612-625-1218</td>
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