ACCUPLACER FAQs for Students at South

What is the ACCUPLACER?
- It is a free, **multiple-choice** test with **no time limits**, used by some colleges and technical schools, to measure your basic skills in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Because there are no time limits, you can work at your own pace, and take time to show what you know.

Why should I take it?
- Many two-year colleges and technical schools, such as MCTC, St. Paul College, and Normandale, require the ACCUPLACER for placement purposes before you can enroll, either for PSEO or for full-time study after graduation. It is not accepted as an examination for placement at the University of Minnesota or most private colleges and universities.

Where do I take it?
- You can take it at South with the Testing Coordinator, or at one of the local community colleges, by reservation (see below). It is easiest to take the ACCUPLACER right at the college you wish to attend, because you can get to know the campus and discover the advising and support services available to you, all at the same time.

Before I take the ACCUPLACER *at South*, what do I need to do?
- Apply to your college and **get your "Tech ID"**. It will be given to you when you complete the application. You will need that ID before you can take the test at South. After you take the test, your score will be sent from South to the college.

How do I apply to MCTC, St. Paul Tech, or Normandale?
- MCTC: https://www.minneapolis.edu/Admissions/How-to-Apply
- St. Paul College: https://www.saintpaul.edu/apply
- Normandale: http://www.normandale.edu/admissions/apply-now-

What is my Tech ID?
- Your Tech ID (sometimes referred to as a "Student ID") is an eight-digit number that identifies a person's record in ISRS, the main record system used by Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

Are there different versions of the ACCUPLACER? How do I know what sections or versions to take?
- It depends. Some schools or programs only require you to take one section. There is also a version for English Language Learners.

How can I prepare?
- There are several online study guides. A good place to start is: https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/student/practice
- Khan Academy also has test review by topics: https://www.khanacademy.org

How do I get my scores?
- Since it is a multiple-choice test taken online, you get your ACCUPLACER results for each section as soon as you complete the test.

What if I get a low score, or what if I already took another type of college-placement test?

- Most schools offer some exemptions and/or opportunities to retake the ACCUPLACER.

  MCTC: https://www.minneapolis.edu/Admissions/Accuplacer-Placement-Tests/Accuplacer-Testing.

  Normandale: http://www.normandale.edu/admissions/placement-testing.

  St. Paul College: https://www.saintpaul.edu/admissions/accuplacer-assessment-requirement

Can I take the ACCUPLACER more than once?

- Yes, but there are usually some rules that apply. Check with the institution you wish to attend (see above).

What's on the tests?

- **Reading and Language**

  Reading Comprehension (non-ESL Test) - 20 questions

  or

  (ESL Tests) Reading Skills - 20 questions, Sentence Meaning – 20 questions, Language Use – 20 questions, Listening – 20 questions

- **Mathematics:**

  Arithmetic (if that is your most recent math class) – 17 questions

  Elementary Algebra (if you do well on Arithmetic) – 12 questions

  College-level Mathematics (if you do well on Elementary Algebra) – 20 questions

What is my "Star ID"?

- You will get a "Star ID" once you are admitted to any MNSCU school: https://starid.minnstate.edu. That ID will be valid at any MNSCU school for all identification purposes connected to your studies. The StarID is a username that replaces many login IDs with **one ID, one password, everywhere**. Once you activate it, you can use your StarID and password anywhere that accepts StarID. Instead of a separate login at each college or university, you can use the same StarID across Minnesota State. Change your password in one place — starid.minnstate.edu — and it will change everywhere. The StarID is two letters, four numbers, and two letters, e.g. "ab1234cd".