

# Seattle Central College - Running Start Program

1701 Broadway Seattle, WA 98122 | 206.934.3800

## How to Apply to Running Start

Running Start does just that: It gives high school juniors and seniors a running start on college-level classes. Those classes count twice: once towards fulfillment of high school graduation requirements and again for college credit.

### Qualifications

To qualify for the program a student must:

- Be under 21 years of age and enrolled in any Washington State public high school or school district.
- Be a junior or senior in high school. Fifth or second year seniors can only enroll in Running Start if they have already participated during their regular junior or senior year and then only take high school graduation requirements.
- Place in English 101 and/or college level math (100 level or above) on the COMPASS Test.
- For Natural Science courses students must also place into a minimum of MATH 084.
- Have parent/guardian and counselor signatures and approval to participate in the program.

### Priority Applications Dates

We will accept applications after these dates but course selection may be limited.

- Fall: May 1
- Winter: November 1
- Spring: February 1

### Procedures for acceptance

1. Prepare for the COMPASS Test by going to this website [beforeyoutest.org](http://beforeyoutest.org)
2. Come to the Running Start office (1102 C1) with a picture ID to get a student ID number for testing. Testing fee is \$19 — however, a fee waiver eligibility form for students on free or reduced lunch is available in the Running Start office or on our Running Start website under "Forms" (note form must be signed by student's high school counselor). Take the COMPASS Test. No appointment is required. Please click on the COMPASS link for testing hours.
3. Take test results to the Running Start office, fill out an Enrollment Packet, and schedule an advising / registration appointment with a Running Start Advisor.

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4. Meet with a high school counselor and complete the Enrollment Verification Form included in the Enrollment Packet.
5. Bring the completed Enrollment Packet and a copy of your test scores to your advising / registration appointment.
6. Attend the mandatory Running Start Orientation.

## Staff

NAME	TITLE	
Grace Vazquez	Secretary	Grace.Vazquez@seattlecolleges.edu
Maki Hosoda	Curriculum Advisor	Maki.Hosoda@seattlecolleges.edu
Todd Haak	Manager, Running Start Program	Todd.Haak@seattlecolleges.edu

COMPASS  
SAMPLE ENGLISH (NATIVE SPEAKER) PLACEMENT TEST

PART 1: READING PLACEMENT

Sample passage 1 --- Humanities

When I'm in New York but feeling lonely for Wyoming I look for the Western movie ads in the subway. But the men I see in those posters with their stern, humorless looks remind me of no one I know in the East. In our earnestness to romanticize the cowboy we've ironically disesteemed his true character. If he's "strong and silent" it's because there's probably no one to talk to. If he "rides away into the sunset" it's because he's been on horseback since four in the morning moving cattle and he's trying, fifteen hours later, to get home to his family. If he's a "rugged individualist" he's also part of a team: ranch work is teamwork and even the glorified open-range cowboys of the 1880s rode up and down the Chisholm Trail in the company of twenty or thirty other riders. It's not toughness but "toughing it out" that counts. In other words, this macho, cultural artifact the cowboy has become is simply a man who possesses resilience, patience, and an instinct for survival. "Cowboys are just like a pile of rocks --- everything happens to them. They get climbed on, kicked, rained and snowed on, scuffed up by the wind. Their job is 'just to take it', " one old-timer told me.

Adapted from Gretel Ehrlich, *The Solace of open Spaces*. © 1985 by Gretel Ehrlich.

Referring

- 1.) According to the passage, cowboys are probably "strong and silent" because:
- their work leaves them no time for conversation.
  - They have been cautioned not to complain.
  - There is no one nearby to listen to them
  - Their work makes them too tired to talk

Reasoning

- (2) For which of the following statements does the passage give apparently contradictory evidence?
- The cowboy's work takes endurance.
  - Cowboys work alone.
  - Cowboys are adequately paid.
  - The cowboy's image has become romanticized in American culture.
  - Cowboys think of themselves as humorless.

Prior-Knowledge

- (3) A subway can best be described as:
- a bus route through town.
  - an underground train.
  - a pedestrian right-of-way.
  - an exit ramp.

Sample Passage 2 --- Practical Reading

Regular tune-ups of your heating system will cut heating costs and will most likely increase the lifetime and safety of the system. When a service technician performs a tune-up, he or she should test the efficiency of your heating system.

The technician should measure the efficiency of your system both before and after servicing it and provide you with a copy of the results. Combustion efficiency is determined indirectly, based on some of the following tests: 1) temperature of the flue (or chimney); 2) percent carbon dioxide or percent oxygen in the atmosphere; 3) presence of carbon monoxide in the atmosphere; and 4) draft. Incomplete combustion of fuel is the main contributor to low efficiency. If the technician cannot raise the combustion efficiency up to at least 75% after tuning your heating system, you should consider installing a new system or at least modifying your present system to increase its efficiency.

Reasoning

- (1) The passage suggests that, if carbon monoxide is present in the atmosphere, it is likely that the:
- heating system is losing efficiency due to incomplete combustion.
  - Heating system only needs minor repairs and will most likely function for a number of years.
  - Temperature of the flue will be lower than expected.
  - Heating system cannot be repaired and must be replaced.

Referring

- (2) According to the passage, when performing a tune-up of a heating system, the service technician should:
- ensure that the combustion efficiency is at least 25%
  - modify the heating system before initially measuring efficiency.
  - measure combustion efficiency both before and after servicing the system.
  - ignore the age of the heating system.

Prior-Knowledge

- (3) Combustion can best be described as a process
- fueling.
  - charging.
  - cooling.
  - burning.

## PART 2: WRITING PLACEMENT

During the Writing test, you are presented with a short essay similar to the one shown below and are asked to find any errors in grammar, punctuation, usage, and style. When you find one, you should move your cursor to one of the words you wish to change and hit the enter key. The screen will then show five different options for changing that section. If you decide not to change anything, you can always select the first option, which will always be the original wording. After finishing any revisions you wish to make, you will be asked two additional questions about the essay.

The essay shown below has the same number and types of errors as on the real COMPASS test. However, in this sample only 3 sentences have been selected to demonstrate possible choices. Those sentences are in bold type in the essay, and then are shown below with the possible options. These are followed by a sample end-of-essay question.

-----Start of Essay-----

**An increasing number of lakes and rivers in the northern United States invaded are being by a mussel no larger than a fingernail.**

The zebra mussel probably steamed about a transatlantic ship sometime in the mid-1980s from the Caspian Sea into U.S. waters. Despite its growth was explosive, partly because the species was preyed upon by very few native predators in its new environment. As a consequence, the zebra mussels did find a plentiful food supply. They eat huge amounts of phytoplankton, which are tiny free-floating sea organisms that dwell in water. Scientists are concerned when the mussels may compete aggressively with other species that depend on the same food supply.

Others concerned by the invading species are industry, public utilities, and boat owners. Zebra mussels cluster in huge colonies, being anchored themselves to any hard surface. These colonies can clog your water intake pipes of electric and water treatment plants. Fishery specialists are currently casting about and baiting their hooks to gun down control methods that will cause the lowest amount of damage to water supplies and other aquatic species. Two of the alternatives exploring are interrupting the species reproductive cycle and finding a bacterium harmful only to zebra mussels.

-----End of Essay-----

### Segment 1: (Ensuring Grammatical Agreement)

- an increasing number of lakes and rivers
- an increasingly number of lakes and rivers
- a number increasing of lakes and rivers
- a number increasingly of lakes and rivers
- an increasing of lakes and rivers

### Segment 3: (Relating Clauses)

- Scientists are concerned when the mussels
- Scientists are concerned that if the mussels
- Scientists are concerned wherein the mussels
- Scientists are concerned that the mussels
- Scientists are concerned as if the mussels

### Segment 2: (Avoiding Redundancy)

- was preyed upon by very few native predators in its new environment.
- found very few predators in its new environment.
- found very few native predators and was seldom eaten in its new environment.
- was preyed on by very few native predator species in its new environment.
- was seldom eaten or preyed on by native predator species in its new environment.

### End-of-Essay Question (Making Decisions about Cohesive Devices)

The writer wishes to add a sentence at the end of Paragraph 1 that will serve as a transition between Paragraphs 1 and 2 and will establish the main focus of the essay. Which of the following sentences most effectively fulfills that purpose?

- The zebra mussel will provide a difficult challenge for public utility managers.
- The zebra mussel is only the latest in a series of newly introduced species to thrive in the U.S.
- No one knows how far south and west the zebra mussel is likely to spread, but scientists think they may be on the trail of important clues.
- Although small in size, the zebra mussel may become a huge problem for pleasure boat owners in North American waterways.
- Despite its size, however, the zebra mussel may have a dramatic effect on North American waterways.

Answers to Sample Questions:

Reading Passage 1: (1) C (2) B (3) B Reading Passage 2: (1) A (2) C (3) D Writing: (1) A (2) B (3) D (4) E

## Summary

- COMPASS is the computerized English & Math placement exam at Seattle Central. All tests are multiple-choice and done with a keyboard and/or mouse.
- **Appointments are not made for COMPASS.** Walk-in only.
- **No tests will be started during the last 45 minutes before closing.**
- There is **no time limit** to the COMPASS test. You may take as much time as you need; it will not affect your scores.
- If you do not have time to finish, the test can be saved. You can return to finish **within 30 days**.
- **Two hours** is the average time for the whole test (English & Math), but this varies a great deal.
- **Pencils, scratch paper, and calculator** are provided.
- Dictionaries are not allowed (unless you are taking the Math test, and English is your second language.)
- Once you answer a question you cannot go back to change it. **Be sure you are ready to go on!**
- You will never be told if your answers are correct or not.
- You will receive a score for each section of the test. A perfect score is always 99.
- When you come to test, you will be asked whether you need to take English only, Math only, or both English and Math. **It is your responsibility to know what tests you need to take.** If you take only one section and then have to come back and take the other section, you will be charged the full fee both times.
- Scores are available as soon as the test is finished. You will receive **one free copy**. Extra copies are \$3.
- Scores are **valid for 3 years only**.
- **To re-test you must wait 90 days, and re-pay the fee, unless you obtain a waiver signed by an SCCC counselor. Waivers must be obtained in advance and presented at the time of testing.**

### English Testing

**CHOOSE  
YOUR ENGLISH TEST  
(you need only one)**

**English Second Language (ESL)**  
You should choose this test if English is not your native language. You will be tested on Listening, Grammar, and Reading Skills.

**English for Native Speakers**  
You should choose this test if you speak English as your first language (or are bilingual). You will be tested on Writing and Reading Skills.

### Math Testing

- You will be asked what level of math you want to start with. You will be given three choices: **Easier Items** (Basic Math, Math 081 & 084), **Medium Items** (Math 084, 085, & 098), **More Difficult Items** (Math 098, 102, 103, 107, 116/141, 142, 146, 151).
- **It does not matter which level you pick.** If you answer questions correctly, they will become more difficult and work up through the levels; answer incorrectly, and they will become easier and work down. If you miss too many, the computer will eventually stop you.
- **Once you have picked a level, you cannot go back and choose a different one.** If you choose a level that is too hard for you, do your best until you see something you are sure you can do. This does **not** affect your score. If you choose a very easy level, you will have to work up to your highest level.

# COMPASS Placement Testing for ENGLISH and MATH

(Revised 9/3//2015)

## Schedule (Walk-in only. No appointments.)

September 8, 2015 through June 2016

AFTERNOON ONLY

Mondays	8am – 4:30pm	(must arrive by 3:45pm)
Tuesdays	4:30m – 6:30pm	(must arrive by 5:45pm)
Wednesdays	8am – 4:30pm	(must arrive by 3:45pm)
Thursdays	8am - 4:30pm	(must arrive by 3:45pm)
Fridays	8am - 4:30pm	(must arrive by 3:45pm)
Saturdays/Sundays	CLOSED	

### Required:

- **Photo ID.** No one will be allowed to test without ID. No exceptions.
- **Fee. Charge is \$19.** (Cashier accepts all standard forms of payment until 4pm. After 4pm, exact change cash or check only.)
- **Seattle Central ID number,** from Admissions (or Running Start).
- **Arrive at least 45 minutes** before closing.

### Not allowed:

- **Graphing calculator.** (Non-graphing is ok.)
- **Babies or children.** They are not permitted in the testing room under any circumstances, and must be supervised outside the Testing Office.
- **Any kind of books, notes, or reference materials.**
- **Electronic devices.** They must be turned off during testing.

Please see reverse for further details.