

ADMISSION AND ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

ENGLISH, ESL, AND MATH PLACEMENT

About English, ESL, and Math Placements

For English, depending on their placement, students will start in one of two ways: (a) directly in English 1, a transfer level course; or (b) directly in English 1 paired with English 28, a supporting course.

In some instances, students may also be encouraged to take another reading or grammar supporting course. Some students may need to be placed in selected ESL courses. Depending on their placement, they will start with one of the following courses: ESL 10G and ESL 10W, ESL 11A, ESL 19A, ESL 19B, or English 1. ESL 19A, ESL 19B, and English 1 are CSU/UC transferable courses.

For math, depending on their placement, students will start in one of two ways: (a) directly in a transfer-level math course; or (b) directly in a transfer level math course paired with one supporting course. Students also have the option to enroll in other support pre-transfer level courses.

Is Placement Required?

Completing the placement process in English or ESL and in math is mandatory if a student is:

- A first-time college student enrolling in more than six units during the first semester at SMC; or
- A continuing student who has not completed the placement process; or
- Enrolling in an English, ESL, or math course for the first time (even if not a first-time college student); or
- Enrolling in courses with required English or math preparation (prerequisites). Based on multiple measures used as part of the placement process, students will receive an English, ESL, or math placement recommendation.

Placement Exemptions & Placement and Prerequisite Waivers

Santa Monica College provides placement recommendations and prerequisite waivers to students on the basis of their past college coursework. For example:

- Students may be exempt from the English or ESL placement process if they have completed a college-level English or ESL composition course with a grade of C (2.0) or better;
- Students may be exempt from the math placement process if they have completed a college-level math course with a grade of C (2.0) or better;
- Students may be exempt from selected English or math prerequisites if they have completed applicable college-level courses with a grade of C (2.0) or better (or P, if they took the courses on a P/NP basis) and the courses are equivalent to SMC courses that recommend English or math preparation;
- Students may be exempt from assessment or from selected prerequisites if they have completed applicable college-level courses with a grade of C (2.0) or better (or P, if they took the courses on a P/NP basis) and the courses are equivalent to SMC courses that require or recommend the assessment of skill levels;
- Students may be exempt from the placement process or may receive waivers for selected prerequisites if they received a particular score on an applicable College Board AP test (see Waivers Based on Advanced Placement Exam Results, below).

For detailed instructions on how to obtain a waiver or request an exemption, students should visit smc.edu/waivers and then consult with a counselor in the General Counseling & Transfer Services. Prerequisite waiver requests are reviewed on an individual basis.

PLEASE NOTE: Students who may be exempt from the placement process still must successfully complete — or receive waivers for — any prerequisite courses (or their equivalent) that are required for classes in English (or ESL), math, Anatomy 1, Biology 21/22/23, Chemistry 11/12/21/22/24, Film 31/32/33/34, Microbiology 1, Nursing 17, Physics 7/9/22/23/24, and Physiology 3 (among other courses). Students should consult a counselor in

the General Counseling & Transfer Services for further information. Courses in other disciplines may first require the completion of a prerequisite course in that discipline. Placement/ prerequisite waivers may be requested directly from the department chair in that discipline, as required.

Waivers Based on Completed Coursework

Placement recommendations and permits to enroll in selected English, ESL, math, chemistry, life sciences, and physics courses may be issued to students if they have completed a relevant college-level course with a grade of C (2.0) or better.

Students seeking a placement waiver for selected English, ESL, and math courses, as well as Chemistry 11 or Anatomy 1 should take a copy of their college transcript and course description to General Counseling & Transfer Services. A counselor will evaluate the course in question and, if appropriate, issue a waiver.

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Students seeking a waiver to repeat a course at Santa Monica College due to a substandard grade (i.e., F, D, NC, NP) or a W, MW, or FW from another institution must demonstrate that the relevant prerequisite for that course was completed successfully.

Waivers Based on Advanced Placement Exam Results

College Board Advanced Placement test results may be used to determine the eligibility of students for English, math, and chemistry courses. Students must bring their original AP test results to the Success & Engagement Center or to General Counseling & Transfer Services. Placement/prerequisite waivers will be issued under the following conditions:

- A score of 3, 4, or 5 on the AP English Language & Composition or Composition & Literature exam will qualify students for English 2 and give 3 units of credit for English 1;
- A score of 3, 4, or 5 on the AP Statistics exam will give 4 units of credit for Math 54 [Note: A placement waiver for Math 54 only may be issued if a student wishes to enroll in Math 54 and the student has NOT been granted AP Statistics credit at SMC. Duplication of course credit (Advanced Placement and SMC coursework) will not be permitted.];
- A score of 3 on the AP Calculus AB exam will qualify students for Math 7 and give 5 units credit for Math 2;
- A score of 3 on the AP Calculus BC exam will qualify students for Math 8 and give 5 units credit for Math 7;
- A score of 4 or 5 on the AP Calculus AB exam will qualify students for Math 8 and give 5 units credit for Math 7;
- A score of 4 or 5 on the AP Calculus BC exam will qualify students for Math 10/11/13/15 and give 5 units credit for Math 8; and
- A score of 3, 4, or 5 on the AP Chemistry exam will qualify students for Chemistry 11 and give 5 units credit for Chemistry 10 (no lab requirement met).

It is VERY IMPORTANT for students to have their AP scores evaluated by a Santa Monica College counselor. The evaluation will determine whether the scores are transferable and — more importantly — will help determine whether they satisfy a requirement relevant to the student's education goals. While students can sometimes receive an immediate evaluation and decision from a counselor, the evaluation process can take 5-10 days for a decision. **To avoid taking classes they don't need, students should start the AP score evaluation process with a counselor AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

Chemistry 10 Challenge Exam

Before enrolling in Chemistry 11, a student must either satisfactorily complete Chemistry 10 or pass the Chemistry 10 Challenge Exam. Please see the Success & Engagement Center webpage (smc.edu/successcenter) for testing hours and other information.

Math Proficiency Assessment (MPA)

All students who wish to earn an Associate degree must demonstrate proficiency in written communication and mathematics. Mathematics proficiency is demonstrated by:

1. Completing a required eligible math or other course (see SMC Associate degree General Education requirements for specific courses) taught at an accredited college; or by
2. Completing the SMC Mathematics Placement process or passing the math proficiency test administered by the Success and Engagement Center and completing an eligible rationality course (see SMC Associate degree General Education requirements for specific courses).

To take the Math Proficiency Assessment, a student must first complete a minimum of 30 units of classes that meet Associate degree requirements. The Success & Engagement Center will verify this at the time the student goes to take the MPA by reviewing the number of completed cumulative units indicated on the student's SMC transcript. If a student has attended another college and will be using units from that college to meet the 30-unit requirement, it is the student's responsibility to inform the Success & Engagement Center and provide us with a valid transcript. The Math Proficiency Assessment is given during normal testing hours on a first-come, first-served basis only. Students must present a valid photo ID and SMC student ID number to take the MPA. Please visit the Success & Engagement Center webpage (smc.edu/successcenter) for information on the Math Proficiency Assessment contents and a study guide.

The Mathematics Proficiency Assessment may be retaken ONE time only, after a waiting period of two (2) weeks after the student first took the MPA. Additional retesting will not be provided under any circumstances. Students should be sure to review and prepare for the MPA.

Retesting Policy

Students may retest in ESL and chemistry after a waiting period of two (2) weeks from the date they first took the test. After that, they are permitted to retest once each calendar year, but only if they have not started taking courses in the relevant subject. Students who enroll in any of those courses will forfeit their chance to retest. For the Math Proficiency Assessment, students may retest ONE time only after a waiting period of eight (8) weeks. See the Math Proficiency Assessment (MPA) section above for details.

Expiration of Challenge Exam Scores

All challenge exam results are valid for two calendar years. Students should make sure they enroll in the courses their results qualified them for **before** the results expire. Once the results have expired, students will be blocked from enrolling in those courses and will need to take another challenge exam.

Identification Card Policy

A valid form of photo identification issued by a government agency (e.g., a passport, driver license, military I.D.), financial institution, or high school is REQUIRED for testing. The Success & Engagement Center also reserves the right to request a secondary form of I.D. A student I.D. card may be used ONLY as a secondary form of identification. PLEASE NOTE: All acts of impersonation, attempted impersonation, and/or the use of fraudulent I.D. cards or passports will be reported to Campus Police and Student Judicial Affairs for review and adjudication. Campus Police will refer all such cases to the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office for criminal prosecution.