

# KEAN UNIVERSITY



16/FA Cohort

## *PLACEMENT TESTING INFORMATION BULLETIN*

### FRESHMAN PLACEMENT TESTING POLICY

To support successful completion of the Academic Foundations courses required of all students, Kean University uses multiple criteria to determine appropriate initial course placements for incoming freshmen. University policy requires that all newly-admitted freshmen take the ACCUPLACER Computerized Placement Test before they register—unless they have been exempted from all or part of this test due to their SAT scores (see exemption criteria below).

### EXEMPTION FROM PLACEMENT TESTING

- Students with **SAT-Critical Reading (Verbal)** scores of **520** or higher are exempt from the reading portion of the test (i.e., the *Reading Comprehension* section).
- Students with **SAT-Writing** scores of **520** or higher are exempt from the writing portion of the test (i.e., the *Essay* section).
- Students with **SAT-Math** scores of **530** or higher are exempt from the math portion of the test (i.e., the *Elementary Algebra* section).
- Students with **SAT-Critical Reading (Verbal)** scores of 520 or higher, **SAT-Writing** scores of 520 or higher and **SAT-Math** scores of 530 or higher are exempt from all of the parts of the test indicated above (*Reading Comprehension*, *Essay*, and *Elementary Algebra*).
- Students with an **ACT Composite Score** of **24** or higher are exempt from all of the parts of the test indicated above (*Reading Comprehension*, *Essay*, and *Elementary Algebra*).
- Students exempt from the *Elementary Algebra* section who are planning to major in accounting, business, economics, finance, management, marketing, mathematics, computer science, or other applied or natural science or have applied/been accepted into the NJCSTM Program, are required to take the *College Level Mathematics* section of the test. The *CLM* is used to determine preparedness for higher-level math courses such as *Pre-Calculus* and *Calculus*. Students not majoring in these areas are encouraged (but not required) to take the *CLM*.

### PURPOSE OF PLACEMENT TESTING

Placement testing provides information about your levels of proficiency in the skill areas tested (reading, writing,

and math). This information is used to place you in appropriate-level courses. In some cases, these courses will be non-college-credit courses designed to improve your skills and support your college-level studies. Because your test results will determine which courses you will be required to take, it is very important that you take the test seriously and perform to the best of your abilities.

### STUDENTS NEEDING ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have a physical or *documented* learning disability that may entitle you to testing accommodations based on your individual needs, please contact Ms. Donna Dingle, Disability Services; Downs Hall (DN 122), (908) 737-4910 or e-mail [disabilityservices@kean.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@kean.edu).

### ESL STUDENTS

If you read and/or write best in a language other than English and therefore may need to take English as a Second Language (ESL) courses, you should take the ESL Placement Test *instead* of the sections of the ACCUPLACER Computerized Placement Test designed for native speakers of English. To make an appointment to take the ESL Placement Test, call Kean University's Placement Testing Office at (908) 737-0340. If you are not sure if you need ESL testing or courses, please contact Kean University's ESL Program for advisement at (908) 737-0420.

### PLACEMENT TESTING AT KEAN

- Kean University administers the *Essay*, *Reading Comprehension* and *Elementary Algebra* sections of the ACCUPLACER Computerized Placement Test. In addition, students who demonstrate a high level of mastery on the *Elementary Algebra* section will also be administered the *College-Level Mathematics* section of the test.
- Although Kean University does not have a Foreign Language requirement, students who have previously studied FRENCH, GERMAN, or SPANISH in high school and plan to continue studying the language, will be administered the WebCAPE Foreign Language Placement Exam immediately following the ACCUPLACER test.
- The typical test session conducted at Kean University (for students taking reading, writing, and math test sections) lasts approximately 2 to 2½ hours.
- You must present at least one valid photo ID (i.e. current Driver's License, HS/College/University ID, State or Federal ID Card, Passport or Naturalization Card/Certificate of Citizenship) on the day of the test.

**Students arriving without a valid photo ID will be denied admission to the testing lab.**

- If snow forces the cancellation of a placement test session scheduled at Kean, a message providing rescheduling information will be recorded on the Placement Testing Office voice-mail at (908) 737-0340.

### **TESTING REGULATIONS**

No cell-phones (or other electronic equipment), books, dictionaries, calculators, or papers of any kind are allowed in the testing room. Please leave these items in your locked vehicle or at home. Anyone who gives or receives help during the test, will not be permitted to continue testing. Test scores can be invalidated if there is any reason to question their validity.

### **PREPARING FOR TESTING**

To ensure that test scores accurately represent your skill levels, you may wish to review basic concepts in reading, grammar, and algebra before taking ACCUPLACER. Many students find that SAT Preparation or SAT review books are helpful in refreshing their basic skills. You should also visit the placement testing website at <http://placementtest.kean.edu> - "Resources for Students" to view sample test questions. In addition, this Information Bulletin contains detailed information about the test, including several sample test questions.

### **NOTIFICATION OF TEST RESULTS**

You will receive your placement test results/course placements immediately following the test. If you receive an Essay score of 5 or below (Pending), your Essay will need to be read by one of Kean's English Instructors. Your official English course placement will be given to you before you leave for the day.

### **DESCRIPTION OF COMPUTERIZED TESTING**

You will take the test at a personal computer, using the keyboard to type your essay and the mouse to click on answers to multiple-choice questions. The testing instructions and procedures are easy to understand, so prior computer experience is not necessary. A Test Administrator will always be present should you have any questions or problems.

**Answering the Questions:** The questions will appear one at a time on the computer screen. Most questions are multiple choice and all you will need to do is select the desired answer. When you have completed the question and verified your answer, a new screen will appear with your next question. Each test is untimed so that you can give each question as much thought as you wish. However, once you have verified your answer you cannot change it or return to that question. You must answer each question presented, even if you have to guess. You cannot skip questions. You will be given scratch paper to use, if you wish, during the math test(s).

**Adaptive Testing:** Each multiple-choice test section usually takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. However, you may take as long as you need to complete each multiple-choice test. Except for the essay, the tests are untimed. Each test is designed using adaptive techniques. This means that the computer automatically determines which questions are presented to you based on your responses to prior questions. This technique "zeroes-in" on just the right questions to ask you without being too easy or too difficult. The greater your demonstrated skill level, the more challenging will be the questions presented to you.

**Adaptive Test Sequencing:** The adaptive nature of computerized testing also enables the administration of different tests to students with differing abilities. Kean University uses this feature in the administration of the math test sections. All students testing for math begin by taking the *Elementary Algebra* section. Then, depending on the *Elementary Algebra* score, some students are shifted to the *College-Level Mathematics* test, while some students require no additional testing beyond the *Elementary Algebra* section.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE TEST SECTIONS**

#### **Essay**

This test measures your ability to write effectively, which is critical to academic success. You will be given 50 minutes to produce an essay on an assigned topic. You will type and edit your essay at the computer. You will not be able to use spelling or grammar-checking tools. Your writing sample will be scored on the basis of how effectively it communicates a whole message to the readers for the stated purpose. Your score will also be based on your ability to express, organize, and support your opinions and ideas, not the position you take on the essay topic. The following characteristics of writing will be considered:

- Purpose and Focus – The extent to which the writer presents information in a unified and coherent manner, clearly addressing the issue.
- Organization and Structure – The extent to which the writer orders and connects ideas.
- Development and Support – The extent to which the writer develops and supports ideas.
- Sentence Variety and Style – The extent to which the writer crafts sentences and paragraphs demonstrating control of vocabulary, voice, and structure.
- Mechanical Conventions – The extent to which the writer expresses ideas using standard English.
- Critical Thinking – The extent to which the writer communicates a point of view and demonstrates reasoned relationships among ideas.

#### **Reading Comprehension (20 questions)**

The Reading Comprehension section consists of two primary types of questions:

- The first type consists of a reading passage followed by a question based on the text. Both short and long

passages are provided. The reading passages can also be classified according to the kind of information processing required including explicit statements related to the main idea, explicit statements related to a secondary idea, application, and inference.

- The second type of question, sentence relationships, presents two sentences followed by a question about the relationship between these two sentences. The question may ask, for example, if the statement in the second sentence supports that in the first, if it contradicts it, or if it repeats the same information.

### **Elementary Algebra (12 questions)**

**(All students testing for math will take this test)**

Three types of questions are administered on this test:

- The first type involves operations with integers and rational numbers, and includes computation with integers and negative rationals, the use of absolute values, and ordering.
- A second type involves operations with algebraic expressions using evaluation of simple formulas and expressions, and adding and subtracting monomials and polynomials. Questions involve multiplying and dividing monomials and polynomials, the evaluation of positive rational roots and exponents, simplifying algebraic fractions, and factoring.
- The third type of question involves the solution of equations, inequalities, word problems, solving linear equations and inequalities, the solution of quadratic equations by factoring, solving verbal problems presented in an algebraic context, including geometric reasoning and graphing, and the translation of written phrases into algebraic expressions.

### **College-Level Mathematics (20 questions)**

**(Not all students testing for math will take this test)**

**Students who demonstrate a high level of mastery on the *Elementary Algebra* section will be automatically administered the *College-Level Mathematics* section after the *Elementary Algebra* section.**

The College-Level Mathematics test measures your ability to solve problems that involve college-level mathematics concepts. The test assesses proficiency from intermediate algebra through precalculus. Results are used to assess students' preparedness for higher-level math courses such as *Precalculus* and *Calculus*.

There are six content areas measured on this test:

- The Algebraic Operations content area includes simplification of rational algebraic expressions, factoring and expanding polynomials, and manipulating roots and exponents.
- The Solutions of Equations and Inequalities content area includes the solution of linear and quadratic equations and inequalities, systems of equations, and other algebraic equations.
- The Coordinate Geometry area presents questions involving plane geometry, the coordinate plane,

straight lines, conics, sets of points in the plane, and graphs of algebraic functions.

- The Applications and other Algebra Topics area contains complex numbers, series and sequences, determinants, permutations and combinations, factorials, and word problems.
- The Functions content area includes questions involving polynomial, algebraic, exponential, and logarithmic functions.
- The Trigonometry area includes trigonometric functions.

### **WebCAPE FOREIGN LANGUAGE PLACEMENT EXAM**

**(Only students who have previously studied FRENCH, GERMAN, or SPANISH in high school and plan to continue studying the language, are required to take this test)**

The WebCAPE Foreign Language Placement Exam is designed to place incoming students in the appropriate foreign language course. This computer-adaptive test consists of grammar, reading, and vocabulary questions in a multiple-choice format.

### **SAMPLE TEST QUESTIONS**

**Answers to the sample questions appear at the end of page 4 of this bulletin.**

#### **ESSAY**

*Students will be presented with a prompt, consisting of a short passage adapted from some authentic text. Following the passage, there will be an assignment that requires the student to focus on the issue addressed in the passage.*

#### **Sample Passage:**

An actor, when his cue came, was unable to move onto the stage. He said, "I can't get in, the chair is in the way." And the producer said, "Use the difficulty. If it's a drama, pick the chair up and smash it. If it's a comedy, fall over it." From this experience the actor concluded that in any situation in life that is negative, there is something positive you can do with it.

Adapted from Lawrence Eisenberg, "Caine Scrutiny."

#### **Sample Assignment:**

***Can any obstacle or disadvantage be turned into something good?***

Write an essay in which you develop your own point of view on the issue. You should support your position with appropriate reasoning and examples. The position you take will not influence your score.

#### **READING COMPREHENSION**

*Read the statement or passage and then choose the best answer to the question. Answer the question based on what is stated or implied in the statement or passage*

#### **Sample Question 1:**

1. In the words of Thomas DeQuincey, "It is notorious that the memory strengthens as you lay burdens upon it." If, like most people, you have trouble recalling the names of those you have just met, try this: The next time you are introduced, plan to remember the names. Say to yourself, "I'll listen carefully; I'll repeat each person's name to be sure I've got it, and I will remember." You'll discover how effective this technique is and probably recall those names for the rest of your life.

The main idea of the paragraph maintains that the memory

- A. always operates at peak efficiency
- B. breaks down under great strain
- C. improves if it is used often
- D. becomes unreliable if it tires

*For questions such as the one that follows, two underlined sentences are followed by a question or statement. Read the sentences, then choose the best answer to the question or the best completion of the statement.*

### Sample Question 2:

2. Social studies classes focus on the complexity of our social environment.

The subject combines the study of history and the social sciences and promotes skills in citizenship.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It expands on the first sentence.
- B. It makes a contrast.
- C. It proposes a solution.
- D. It states an effect.

### ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA

*Solve the following problems and select your answer from the choices given. You may use the paper you have been given for scratch work.*

#### Sample Questions:

1.  $-3(5-6) - 4(2-3) =$

- A. -7
- B. 7
- C. -1
- D. 1

2.  $\sqrt{2} \times \sqrt{15} = ?$

- A. 17
- B. 30
- C.  $\sqrt{30}$
- D.  $\sqrt{17}$

3. If A represents the number of apples purchased at 15 cents each and B represents the number of bananas purchased at 10 cents each, which of the following represents the total value of the purchases in cents?

- A.  $A + B$
- B.  $25(A + B)$
- C.  $10A + 15B$
- D.  $15A + 10B$

### COLLEGE-LEVEL MATHEMATICS

*Solve the following problems and select your answer from the choices given. You may use the paper you have been given for scratch work.*

#### Sample Questions:

1. An equation of the line that contains the origin and the point (1, 2) is

- A.  $y = 2x$
- B.  $2y = x$
- C.  $y = x - 1$
- D.  $y = 2x + 1$
- E.  $y/2 = x - 1$

2. An apartment building contains 12 units consisting of one- and two-bedroom apartments that rent for \$360 and \$450 per month, respectively. When all units are rented, the total monthly rental is \$4,950. What is the number of two-bedroom apartments?

- A. 3
- B. 4
- C. 5
- D. 6
- E. 7

3.  $2^{\frac{5}{2}} - 2^{\frac{3}{2}} =$

- A.  $2^{\frac{1}{2}}$
- B. 2
- C.  $2^{\frac{3}{2}}$
- D.  $2^{\frac{5}{3}}$
- E.  $2^2$

### ANSWERS TO SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Reading Comprehension: 1. (C); 2. (A)

Elementary Algebra: 1. (B); 2. (C); 3. (D)

College-Level Mathematics: 1. (A); 2. (E); 3. (C)

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*To make an appointment to take the placement test, please visit the following website: <http://placementtest.kean.edu> or call the Placement Testing Office at: (908) 737-0340.*