



Compass Assessment Content by Section

The Compass assessment is divided into three parts: Reading comprehension, Writing skills, and Pre-algebra skills.

The pre-algebra section consists of problems in the following content areas: basic operations with integers, fractions and decimals, exponents, square roots, scientific notation, ratios, percentages, proportions, conversion between fractions and decimals, and averages (mean, median, mode). You should focus your attention on these topics while preparing for the pre-algebra section.

The reading section consists of reading a passage from social sciences, prose fiction, or humanities. Five reading comprehension items that accompany each passage are of two general categories: referring and reasoning. Referring items are things such as recognizing the explicitly stated main idea of the passages, locating explicit information in a passage, recognizing sequential relationships, cause and effect relationships, comparative relationships, and stated assumptions. You should focus your attention on these topics while preparing for the reading section.

The writing section consists of assessing your abilities in the categories of usage / mechanics (punctuation, basic grammar and usage, sentence structure), and rhetorical skills (strategy, organization, style). About 70% of the items will be usage / mechanics and about 30% will be rhetorical skills. You should focus your attention on these topics while preparing for the writing section.

Compass Test Schedule:

You must present your photo I.D. before taking the Compass Placement Assessment.

Bessemer- Mondays- 9 a.m., Wednesdays- 9 a.m., Thursdays- 1 p.m. & 6 p.m., first Saturday of the month at 9 a.m.
To schedule your session, call 929-3418. Sessions occur in room 182, building A.

Birmingham- Mondays- 1 p.m., Tuesdays- 9 a.m. & 5 p.m., Wednesdays- 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.
To schedule your session, call 929-6385. Sessions occur in room 220, Leon Kennedy Student Center.