

University of Hawai'i Maui College  
The Learning Center  
COMPASS Placement Test Information

### What is COMPASS?

COMPASS--Computer-Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System is a comprehensive software package developed by ACT to help postsecondary institutions place students into appropriate course levels.

***Test-taking Hint: Read all test directions carefully!***

COMPASS is divided into two areas:

- English
  - Reading section – The student is given one or more passages to read and then answers questions about the passage.
  - Writing section - The student is presented with a passage and is asked to locate errors in grammar, punctuation, usage, and style throughout the entire passage. The student must then choose the best option to correct the errors.
- Math
  - The student solves problems which measure numerical, pre-algebra, and algebra skills. Some areas included are basic operations with integers, fractions, and decimals; exponents; ratios and proportions; percentages; and topics in elementary algebra, intermediate algebra, and college algebra.
  - Because math knowledge and skills are easily forgotten if not used, students should brush up on their math skills before they take the test.
  - The math section has a self-select starting point: *Pre-Algebra* – basic arithmetic, *Algebra* – introductory algebra, or *College Algebra* – college algebra
  - For appropriate placement, ***students should start at the highest level of math that they have completed in high school.***

### When and where will the COMPASS Placement Test be given?

Placement testing is available on a walk-in basis at The Learning Center (TLC) during regular hours of operation. Call 984-3240 or go to TLC's website at <http://www.maui.hawaii.edu/tlc> for more information. Placement testing is also available at several Maui public high schools. Contact your high school counselor for more information.

### How much time does the COMPASS test require, and what must be brought to the test?

You should allow approximately two hours for the entire COMPASS Test. COMPASS is a self-paced, computerized test, which allows you to proceed at your own rate. You should bring the following information on the day of the test: 1) Photo ID (driver's license with photo) 2) Your UH ID number. If you have not applied to attend Maui College, you may obtain a UH ID number from the Admissions and Records Office at your testing site.

You may **NOT** bring books, dictionaries, notes, papers, or other aids into the testing room. Cell phones must be turned off and put away. A pull-down calculator is available on the math test, and The Learning Center provides calculators to test takers. If students plan to bring their own calculators to the testing session, they are responsible for checking the following web page to ensure that they have an approved calculator: [www.act.org/compass/sample/calc.html](http://www.act.org/compass/sample/calc.html)

### How will the COMPASS Placement Test scores be used?

Your scores will be given to you when you have completed the test. Placement results, together with advising from counselors and faculty, should insure correct course placement and assist with planning an academic program.

### How often may I retake COMPASS?

**COMPASS can be taken once every 2 years without a fee.** For this reason, you should take the test seriously and try your best. If you choose to retake your COMPASS Placement Test at Maui College--Kahului Campus without having to wait the normal 2-year wait period, you will be charged a fee of \$25 per sitting.

### Where can I get COMPASS resources and sample questions online?

*Reading, Writing, and Math*     <http://www.act.org/compass/sample/index.html>  
[http://www.testprepreview.com/compass\\_practice.htm](http://www.testprepreview.com/compass_practice.htm)  
[http://www.dekalbtech.edu/admissions/testing\\_guides.php](http://www.dekalbtech.edu/admissions/testing_guides.php)  
*Math*     <http://www.hostos.cuny.edu/oa/compass/algebra.htm>  
<http://www.uidaho.edu/math/placementreview/PracticeTest.htm>

**Book** – *Chart Your Success on the COMPASS*