

Frequently Asked Questions

College Readiness Coursework Program

How does the program work for students?

Students begin by contacting their school counselor to register for their needed coursework, Intermediate Algebra (MATH 101) and/or Practical Writing (EN 100) through Lake Area Technical College. Once registered, students then access and complete their coursework online with the support of an online teacher. When all coursework is complete, students will take the Accuplacer assessment. The students' scores are then sent to the Board of Regents. If students meet the required Accuplacer placement scores, they will be able to register for college level courses. The Board of Regents Accuplacer placement scores can be found on the following [Board of Regents document](#).

What are the benefits for students?

By successfully completing the online coursework at Lake Area Technical College, students are able to save both time and money by avoiding zero credit remedial coursework at the start of their postsecondary career.

What types of courses are available for students?

Two courses are available to students through Lake Area Technical College, Intermediate Algebra (MATH 101) and Practical Writing (EN 100).

Intermediate Algebra corresponds to students' math ACT sub-scores, and Practical Writing corresponds to students' English ACT sub-scores.

Who can take the courses?

Any high school senior student is able to participate in this program; however, students with an ACT sub-score just below 18 in English and with an ACT sub-score just below 20 in math are the target audience for the program.

Gap year students may also participate in the program, but they should contact the course provider directly to register for the program.

How does a student register for the coursework?

Students must register for the college readiness coursework program through their local school district.

When can school districts begin to register students for the coursework?

Registration for the college readiness courses is for the spring semester. Students must complete the coursework during the spring semester in order to count the coursework toward the upcoming fall semester.

How much does the college readiness coursework program cost?

The cost of each course is \$615.

Payment for the coursework must be made at the time of registration. However, state funding is available to cover the cost of approximately 80 course enrollments through reimbursement after students have completed the course during the registered time frame.

High school seniors enrolled in public school districts who complete the college readiness coursework during their registered time frame are eligible for reimbursement for the full cost for one or both courses.

Are school districts responsible for the cost of the program?

No, school districts are not responsible for the cost of the college readiness coursework program. Students and families may be charged for the participation in the program.

Do students have to take the Accuplacer exam upon completion of the coursework?

Yes. Students must take and pass the BOR threshold score for the Accuplacer to enter credit bearing coursework.

Is the Accuplacer exam proctored?

Yes. The Accuplacer is an online exam that must be proctored to the student by a school official.

How long does the Accuplacer exam take to complete?

Most students will complete the exam within one hour.

Is there a teacher available to support students as they complete their coursework?

Yes. Students will have the support of an online instructor as they work to complete their coursework.

Does the college readiness coursework program apply to technical colleges?

Yes. Currently, the six Board of Regents institutions and four technical colleges across the state accept the Accuplacer scores generated at the end of the coursework. If a student intends to enroll in a private school or out-of-state institution, he or she should check with their specific program to determine if remedial coursework is necessary and if the Intermediate Algebra (MATH 101) and/or Practical Writing (EN 100) will meet their program's requirements.

What are the benefits to school districts?

The college readiness coursework program supports school districts career and college readiness goals. Additionally, each year, the number of students required to take remedial courses is published in the Board of Regents Transition Report. As fewer students need to take remedial courses due to their participation in the program, school districts' transition reports will be improved.

Will students receive a information from the South Dakota Department of Education about this program?

Yes. In the fall, public school 11th and 12th graders will receive information in the mail about the college readiness coursework program.

What if a student re-took the ACT and scored above the BOR math and English requirements?

If the student has re-taken the ACT and has reached the BOR scoring thresholds, he or she would not be required to complete remedial coursework at the BOR institution or technical college, and the college readiness coursework program would no longer apply to him or her.

What if student does not successfully complete the Intermediate Algebra (MATH 101) and/or Practical Writing (EN 100) courses?

Upon arrival at the BOR institution or technical college, the student may still challenge his or her placement by taking another Accuplacer exam. The student is responsible for the cost of this exam.

What if a student takes a dual credit course in high school but his or her ACT scores are below the BOR scoring requirement?

If a student successfully completes a dual credit course which has been approved by the BOR, he or she will not be required to complete college readiness coursework, even if his or her ACT sub-score falls below the BOR scoring threshold.

How will a postsecondary institution receive a student's Accuplacer score?

When a student completes his or her final Accuplacer exam, the final score is recorded in a data base. Each postsecondary institution in the state has access to the database and is able to look up a specific student's Accuplacer score.