

## **Accuplacer/MyFoundationsLab Program FAQ**

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## **How does the program work for students?**

Students begin by contacting their school district to register for the coursework through the South Dakota Virtual School. Once registered, students will complete an online exam called Accuplacer. The results of the Accuplacer exam will determine the amount and type of coursework necessary for each student to complete within a program called MyFoundationsLab. Students then access and complete their coursework online with the support of an online teacher.

Upon completion of the coursework, students will take another Accuplacer exam. The students' scores are then sent to the Board of Regents. If students meet the BOR Accuplacer placement scores, they will be able to register for college level courses. The Board of Regents Accuplacer placement scores can be found on page 6 of the following document:

[http://www.sdbor.edu/services/academics/AAC/documents/Placement\\_Guidelines-Revised\\_06-2012.pdf](http://www.sdbor.edu/services/academics/AAC/documents/Placement_Guidelines-Revised_06-2012.pdf)

## **What are the benefits for students?**

By successfully completing the Accuplacer/MyFoundationsLab program, students are able to save both time and money by avoiding zero credit college readiness coursework at the start of their postsecondary career.

## **What types of courses are available for students?**

Three types of college readiness coursework are available for students: Elementary Algebra, Sentence Skills, and Reading Comprehension.

Elementary Algebra corresponds to students' math ACT sub-scores, and Sentence Skills corresponds to students' English ACT sub-scores. Each BOR institution sets its own college readiness reading requirements, so a student should double check with his or her institution to see if the Reading Comprehension coursework is necessary.

## **Who can take the courses?**

Any student is able to participate in this program; however, students with an ACT sub-score below 18 in English and with an ACT sub-score 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 Accuplacer/MyFoundationsLab program through their local school district.

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

Registration for the three college readiness courses is now available and students can continue to register throughout the school year.

## **When is the coursework available to students?**

Students will be able to access their coursework once they have completed their first Accuplacer exam.

**Students must complete their coursework by July 15, 2016 in order to count the coursework towards the Fall 2016 semester.**

## **How much does the Accuplacer/MyFoundationsLab program cost?**

The cost of the program is based on the timeframe students have access to their coursework. Students may access their coursework for 10 weeks for \$125, for 6 months for \$150, or for 12 months for \$175.

Payment for the coursework must be made at the time of registration. 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 of up to three separate courses.

Coursework may be repeated at student expense.

## **Are school districts responsible for cost of program?**

No, school districts are not responsible for the cost of the Accuplacer/MyFoundationsLab program. Students and families may be charged for the participation in the program.

## **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?**

The Accuplacer exam consists of 40 content-specific questions. Most students will complete the exam within one hour.

## **How long does the MyFoundationsLab coursework take to complete?**

Since the amount of coursework is generated based on each student's skills, the amount of time necessary to complete the coursework will vary from student to student. Students are able to access the coursework in 10-week, 6-month, and 12-month time increments. However, students are not required to access the course for these full amounts of time. Students may work at their own pace and complete the course sooner as well.

## **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.

## **Can students receive credit for completing the coursework?**

No. Neither secondary nor postsecondary credit may be granted for completion of the Accuplacer/MyFoundationsLab program.

## **Does the Accuplacer/MyFoundationsLab program apply to technical institutes?**

Yes. Currently, the six Board of Regents institutions and four technical institutes across the state accept the Accuplacer scores generated at the end of the coursework. If a student intend to enroll in a private school or out-of-state institution, he or she should check with their specific program to determine if college readiness coursework is necessary and if the Accuplacer/MyFoundationsLab program will meet their program's requirements.

## **What are the benefits to school districts?**

The Accuplacer/MyFoundationsLab course supports school districts career and college readiness goals.

Additionally, each year, the number students required to take college readiness courses is published in the Board of Regents Transition Report. As fewer students need to take college readiness courses due to their participation in the Accuplacer/MyFoundationsLab program, school districts' transition reports will be improved.

## **Which students will receive a letter from the South Dakota Department of Education about this program?**

Public school students who took the ACT exam in Spring 2015 will received a letter from the South Dakota Department of Education notifying them about this program. Students who participate in subsequent ACT exams in during Fall 2015 will not receive a letter.

## **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 college readiness coursework at the BOR institution, and the Accuplacer/MyFoundationsLab program would no longer apply to him or her.

## **What if student does not successfully complete the MyFoundationsLab coursework?**

Upon arrival at the BOR institution, 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.

For clarification though, and using English as an example, the BOR only accepts ENGL 101T on a student's transcript. The T designates that this is a "transferrable" course. The transferrable courses use the university's syllabus, has faculty approved by the university, meet the university's student learner outcomes, and, follow the universities placement processes. So for example, if the student completed ENG101 at another institution, this would not qualify, and the student, based on his or her ACT scores would still be placed into college readiness courses upon arrival at a BOR institution.

### **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.