

New Student Testing and Course Selection

NIU's new student testing program is designed to assist students in making a smooth transition from earlier studies to their studies at Northern.

New students are strongly urged to take required and/or optional exams as early as possible, before they attend new student orientation. **Students cannot test on their orientation date.** To review the current testing schedule and register for exams, go to www.niu.edu/testing.

Students must (1) identify the required and/or optional exams they wish to take, (2) select the testing date that best fits their schedule, and (3) follow the directions for arranging to take the exams on the date selected.

Students with disabilities may contact the Disability Resource Center at (815) 753-1303 in advance of testing to discuss testing accommodations.

Northern Illinois University is an equal opportunity institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, marital status, national origin, disability, or status as a disabled or Vietnam-era veteran. The Constitution and Bylaws of Northern Illinois University afford equal treatment regardless of political views or affiliation, and sexual orientation.

Placement Exams

Placement exams are required of select new students and must be taken prior to registration for first semester courses. These exams provide information to help students select courses that correspond to their levels of achievement. Normally, a placement exam may be taken only once.

■ Mathematics Placement

Students are **required** to take this exam if they plan to enroll in any of the following courses: MATH 110, College Algebra; MATH 155, Trigonometry and Elementary Functions; MATH 206, Introductory Discrete Mathematics; MATH 210, Finite Mathematics; MATH 211, Calculus for Business and Social Science; or MATH 229, Calculus I. Transfer students who have completed the mathematics requirement for their NIU program of study need not take this exam.

Students have the option of taking a paper/pencil version of the Math Placement Exam on NIU's main campus OR taking the computer-based Math Accuplacer at an off-campus location. For a list of off-campus locations go to www.niu.edu/testing.

The Mathematics Placement Exam deals mainly with the subject matter of high school algebra and trigonometry. The first part contains questions on such topics as solutions to equations and inequalities, functions and graphs in the plane, exponential and logarithmic functions, systems of equations, and polynomials. The second part of the exam has questions on the trigonometric functions and their graphs, solutions of triangles, trigonometric identities, and the addition formulas.

Calculators may NOT be used for this exam. The following areas of study have programs that require at least one of these courses.

This exam is also **required** for students in any program leading to the B.S. degree in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and for **any students who are undecided majors.**

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Accountancy | Early Childhood Studies | Geology | Medical Laboratory Sciences | Pre-Dentistry | Sociology (B.S. majors only) |
| Anthropology (B.S. majors only) | Economics (B.S. majors only) | History (B.S. majors only) | Middle Level Teaching and Learning | Pre-Medicine | Special Education |
| Athletic Training | Electrical Engineering | Hospitality & Tourism Management | Nonprofit & NGO Studies (B.S. majors only) | Pre-Optometry | Speech-Language Pathology/Audiology |
| Biochemistry | Elementary Education | Industrial & Systems Engineering | Nursing | Pre-Osteopathy | Statistics |
| Biological Sciences | Environmental Studies | Journalism (B.S. majors only) | Nutrition, Dietetics, & Wellness | Pre-Pharmacy | Technology |
| Business Administration | Family & Individual Development | Kinesiology | Operations Management | Pre-Physical Therapy | |
| Chemistry | Family Social Services | Management | Philosophy (B.S. majors only) | Pre-Podiatry | |
| Child Development | Fashion Merchandising | Marketing | Physical Education | Pre-Veterinary Medicine | |
| Communication (B.S. majors only) | Finance | Mathematics | Physics | Psychology (B.S. majors only) | |
| Computer Science | Geography | Mechanical Engineering | Political Science (B.S. majors only) | Public Health | |

■ Chemistry Placement

Students are **required** to take the Chemistry Placement Exam if they plan to enroll in CHEM 210, General Chemistry I, and CHEM 212, General Chemistry Laboratory I. (Students planning to enroll in CHEM 110, Chemistry, need not take this exam.) This exam may be taken only once. Areas of study requiring CHEM 210 and CHEM 212 include:

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Biochemistry | Electrical Engineering | Mechanical Engineering | Pre Dentistry | Pre-Osteopathy | Pre-Podiatry |
| Biological Sciences | Geology | Medical Laboratory Sciences | Pre-Medicine | Pre-Pharmacy | Pre-Veterinary Medicine |
| Chemistry | Industrial & Systems Engineering | Physics | Pre-Optometry | Pre-Physical Therapy | Technology |

The Chemistry Placement Exam is divided into three equal parts: general mathematics, general chemical knowledge, and specific chemical knowledge. Nonprogrammable calculators may be used for this exam.

■ Foreign Language Placement

Students are **required** to take a placement exam in French, German, or Spanish if they have had previous experience with the language and plan to continue their study of that language at the college level, or if they anticipate receiving CLEP Subject Exam credit.

Students who anticipate receiving transfer credit for college-level study of a language need not take a placement exam, and are to register for the course that follows the highest level course for which transfer credit has been granted.

The Foreign Language Placement Exams measure reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, and in some cases, cultural knowledge.

Freshmen who plan to study a foreign language *other than* French, German, or Spanish should see the appropriate coordinator in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

Transfer students planning to study a foreign language *other than* French, German, or Spanish are to register for the course that follows the highest level course for which transfer credit has been granted. Students for whom placement is not clear—for whatever the reason—are to contact the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures for assistance. Phone (815) 753-1501.

Proficiency Exams

Proficiency exams are optional. They are a part of NIU's Credit by Examination program and provide students with the opportunity to acquire credit in selected areas of study for learning that occurred prior to attending NIU. The biology and chemistry exams described below may be taken prior to registration for first semester courses as well as at scheduled times after the semester begins. Information about proficiency exams for courses other than those identified in this publication may be obtained from the appropriate academic department office.

Proficiency credit will be entered on the academic record as soon as it is approved by the appropriate university official. However, no credit may be awarded prior to the drop deadline of the student's first term of enrollment at NIU.

Normally, a proficiency exam may be taken only once in a student's career at NIU.

■ BIOS 103-105 Proficiency

Students who are well prepared in biology are invited to take this exam. However, the BIOS 103/105 proficiency exam is not available for credit for students majoring in biological sciences.

Those passing this exam are awarded 4 semester hours of credit distributed as BIOS 103 General Biology (3 hrs.), and BIOS 105 General Biology Laboratory (1 hr.).

The exam covers the material usually found in a one semester college-level general biology class. The topics include basic biochemistry, cell structure, metabolism, photosynthesis, genetics, cellular reproduction, physiology, evolution, ecology, phylogeny, and basic laboratory techniques. Most textbooks designed for an introductory college biology course will include the information covered by this exam.

■ CHEM 110 Proficiency

Students who are especially well prepared in chemistry are invited to take the CHEM 110 proficiency exam.

Three semester hours of credit in CHEM 110, Chemistry, are awarded to those who pass the exam.

The exam covers the material usually found in a one-year high school chemistry course or a one-semester survey course in chemistry at the college level. The topics covered include formulas, equations, stoichiometry, atomic structure, the periodic table, chemical bonding, kinetic theory of gases, equilibria, acids and bases, redox reactions, and the chemistry of some common elements.

Nonprogrammable calculators may be used for this exam.

■ CHEM 210-211 Proficiency

Students wishing to take this exam must contact Testing Services to make an appointment to test. Students who have taken and received credit for two years of high school chemistry (or equivalent) are invited to take the CHEM 210-211 proficiency exam.

Students passing the exam at the highest level are awarded 8 semester hours of credit as follows: CHEM 210, General Chemistry I, 3 semester hours; CHEM 212, General Chemistry Laboratory I, 1 semester hour; CHEM 211, General Chemistry II, 3 semester hours; and CHEM 213, General Chemistry Laboratory II, 1 semester hour. Those passing the exam at the second level are awarded 4 semester hours of credit as follows: CHEM 210, 3 semester hours, and CHEM 212, 1 semester hour.

The exam covers the first year of general college chemistry. Topics covered include atomic structure, chemical bonding, stoichiometry, kinetic theory, solutions, gases and ionic equilibria, acids and bases, thermodynamics, reaction rates, and some descriptive chemistry.

Nonprogrammable calculators may be used for this exam.

■ Other Opportunities for Credit by Examination

Credit may also be awarded through the Advanced Placement Program (AP), the College-level Examination Program (CLEP), and the DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST) Program. Additional information about NIU's policies regarding these programs, including a full listing of minimum scores required for credit, is available in the *Credit by Exam Brochure* online at www.niu.edu/testing.

Foundational Studies Requirements

To receive a baccalaureate degree from NIU, students must satisfy Foundational Studies requirements in Writing Composition, Oral Communication, and Quantitative Literacy. The requirements in Foundational Studies can be met by successfully completing the designated courses, by transfer credit, by passing a competency examination, or, for some Foundation Studies, through credit by examination such as Advanced Placement (AP) credit, or by CLEP Subject Exam credit.

Although passing a competency exam fulfills the requirement for the core competency, it does not result in awarding NIU course credit (i.e., it reduces the required number of general education hours but does not reduce the number of hours required for a degree).

■ English

The English Writing Foundational Studies competency requirement may be satisfied

- by passing ENGL 103 and 203, or ENGL 204 (if recommended for placement into ENGL 204)
- by transfer credit
- by Advanced Placement (AP) credit
- or by passing the Writing Composition Foundational Studies Competency II Exam.

Students planning to meet this core competency requirement by completing the ENGL 103-203 sequence should register for ENGL 103.

Writing Composition Foundational Studies Competency (WCFSC) Examination

The Writing Composition Foundational Studies Competency Exam is an optional two-part exam. Incoming first-year NIU students may take the exam before they begin college-level course work. Transfer students may take the exam at any point before enrolling in first-year composition courses at NIU.

WCFSC I consists of a one-hour writing exercise resulting in

1. placement into ENGL 103,
2. placement into ENGL 204, a one-semester advanced composition course that satisfies the Writing Composition Foundational Studies competency requirement; or
3. an invitation to take WCFSC II, a comprehensive reading/writing examination, to determine whether students meet the entire Writing Composition Foundational Studies competency requirement.

First-year students whose ACT composite score is 22 or above or whose ACT English score is 22 or above are encouraged to take this exam, as are students whose SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Exam score is 550 or above. Students who have excelled in writing in high school are also encouraged to test.

First-year students with ACT Combined English-Writing subscores of 30 or greater should register for ENGL 204. First-year students with SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing exam of 660 or greater should register for ENGL 204.

For tests beginning in September 2016, first-year students with ACT ELA scores of 30 or greater should register for ENGL 204.

Students planning to take the WCFSC I Exam should not register for ENGL 103, 203, or 204 until they receive their WCFSC I results from Testing Services.

■ Mathematics

The mathematics core competency requirement may be satisfied by obtaining a C or better in Math 229, Calculus I; MATH 211, Calculus for Business and Social Science; MATH 210, Finite Mathematics; MATH 206, Introductory Discrete Mathematics; or MATH 155, Trigonometry and Elementary Functions; by passing Math 101, Core Competency in Mathematics; by transfer credit; by Advanced Placement (AP) credit; by CLEP Subject Exam credit; or by passing the Mathematics Core Competency Exam. A student with credit in STAT 208, Basic Statistics, has additional options for meeting the mathematics core competency requirement. More details may be obtained from the student's major college adviser.

For students planning to meet this requirement by completing a course in mathematical sciences, there are eight beginning courses available.

The proper course for a student to choose depends on the choice of major and/or minor and on ability, background, and academic interests. An academic adviser from the student's major department should be consulted if the correct choice of a beginning course is not apparent.

Students whose intended programs require MATH 229, MATH 211, MATH 210, MATH 206, or MATH 155, are required to take the Mathematics Placement Exam to determine the level at which they should begin their mathematics courses. This exam might indicate that it is necessary to take course work at a level lower than the required course. Students have the option of taking a paper/pencil version of the Math Placement Exam on NIU's main campus OR taking a computer-based Math Accuplacer at an off-campus location. For a list of off-campus locations go to www.niu.edu/testing.

Students planning to major in early childhood studies, elementary education, or special education will need MATH 201, Foundations of Elementary School Mathematics. Enrollment in MATH 201 at NIU is restricted to students in these majors. A grade of C or better fulfills the mathematics core competency requirement.

Students whose programs of study do not require one of the mathematics courses listed above still must meet the core competency requirement in mathematics. (Continue to the next page)

Mathematics Core Competency Exam

This exam is **optional**. Contact Testing Services for additional information.

■ Oral Communication

The oral communication core competency requirement may be satisfied by passing COMS 100, by transfer credit, or by passing the Oral Communication Foundational Studies Competency Exam. Students choosing to enroll in COMS 100 should register for the course as soon as space permits.

Oral Communication Foundational Studies Competency Exam

The Oral Communication Foundational Studies Competency Exam is an **optional** two-part exam that tests competency in college level listening and speaking skills. Part one is a listening skills test. Students will listen to a persuasive speech and are asked 20 multiple choice questions about it. Students who demonstrate college level competence in listening and pass part one are then required to prepare and present a 6-8 minute extemporaneous persuasive speech as part two. Topics will be provided and students will be evaluated by experienced faculty who regularly teach COMS 100.

To register for this exam, a student must be attending NIU. A student cannot concurrently be enrolled in COMS 100 and register for or take the Oral Communication Foundational Studies Competency Exam. This exam may be taken only once. **A student is advised to take this exam at least one year before graduating from NIU.**

Students with exceptional listening and speaking skills who wish to attempt the exam are directed to contact the Department of Communication early in their first semester at NIU.

Phone (815) 753-6999 for complete information or application.

Qualifying Exams

Qualifying exams help determine whether students interested in accountancy or education have sufficient skill levels to progress in these areas of study. **These exams, required of select students, must be taken according to the descriptions that follow.**

■ Accountancy Qualifying Exam

Any student admitted to NIU can declare accountancy as a major. However, all students must meet the College of Business and Department of Accountancy retention requirements before they will be allowed to enroll in upper-level courses. For more information, please visit <http://go.niu.edu/accybs-retention>.

The Accountancy Qualifying Exam (AQE) is a comprehensive, multiple-choice test of information covered in most introductory financial and managerial accounting textbooks. **Students who do not have a B or higher in both ACCY 206 and ACCY 207 and/or do not meet the department's cumulative GPA requirement must pass the AQE to be retained as accountancy majors at NIU.**

For more information about the AQE (including eligibility requirements and review opportunities), please visit <http://go.niu.edu/AQE>.

■ Educator Licensure: Test of Academic Proficiency

All students planning to enroll in any NIU initial teacher licensure program are required to take and pass the Illinois Licensure Testing System (ILTS) Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP) prior to program admission.

The TAP measures basic proficiency in reading comprehension, writing, language arts, and mathematics. It is recommended that freshmen entering NIU take the practice test on-line by the end of their first semester. Transfer students should also take the practice test on-line, and then test before their first semester of attendance at NIU.

Workshops and other services are available for any student who wishes to prepare for the test. Visit www.teachercertification.niu.edu for more information.

Information about ILTS registration, test dates, study guides, practice tests, and cost of testing is explained on the *Illinois Licensure Testing System* website (www.il.nesinc.com).

Prospective students may use one of the following to substitute for the TAP:

| Test | Date Taken | Required Minimum Scores |
|------|--------------------|--|
| ACT | Prior to 9/1/15 | Composite 22; Engl./Writing 19 |
| ACT | 9/1/15 – 9/9/16 | Composite 22; Writing 16 |
| ACT | After 9/9/16 | Composite 22; Writing 6 |
| SAT | Prior to 3/5/16 | Critical Reading + Math 1030; Writing 450 |
| SAT | On or after 3/5/16 | Evidence-based reading & writing + math 1110; Writing & lang. 26 |