

Virginia Placement Test (VPT) Information

There are two Virginia Placement Tests (VPT) students generally take at Germanna Community College. The VPT English and VPT Math tests are computerized placement tests that are used to evaluate students' current English and Math skills respectively. The placement tests are not tests that students can "pass" or "fail." Instead, scores are used to identify students' strengths and weaknesses, so they are not placed into classes that are too easy or difficult. While the tests are not timed, students are required to allow at least three hours for each test. Taking both VPT tests on the same day is not recommended. This handout includes some resources that might assist you in preparing to take the placement tests.

VPT English Information

The VPT English test will consist of two weighted parts: the writing prompt, which is more heavily weighted, and the multiple-choice reading comprehension section. The VPT English test will begin with a selection of writing prompts. Computerized help tools, such as spell check and auto correct, will not be available. The writing section will be scored based upon a combination of the essay's paragraph and sentence organization and structure, quality of content, overall unity, coherence of ideas, thesis statement, topic sentences, spelling, and grammar. Students will be expected to proofread their writing prior to submission. After completing the writing section, students will encounter a series of reading selections followed by multiple choice questions to evaluate reading comprehension. At the conclusion of the test, each student will receive a score report indicating into which ENF and/or ENG classes he/she has been placed.

VPT Math Information

The VPT Math test may include a variety of question types. Based on your performance your experience may include questions ranging from basic arithmetic to pre-calculus. Students are encouraged to finish all sections to the best of their ability as trying to skip questions may result in improper placement. At the conclusion of the test, each student will receive a score report indicating into which MTE and/or MTH classes he/she has been placed.

Our recommendation for reviewing for the Math section of the VPT is to start with the “Cumulative MTE 1-9 Review” packet to determine what you know and don’t know; however, do not worry about studying too much for the topics that you don’t know because it is a placement test, and it is best to place into the course in which you will be most successful with your current math skills.

Sample Test Questions for the English and Math VPT

The information regarding when the testing center hours for placement testing and necessary documents are available on the Testing Services webpage under “Placement Testing:”

<http://www.germannna.edu/testing/placement-testing/>.

By accessing the placement testing webpage, students can access the instructions for taking the online VPT practice test which can be downloaded by clicking on the “VPT Practice Test Directions” link.

The “VPT Practice Test Directions” page can be accessed directly with the following link:

<http://www.germannna.edu/documents/virginia-practice-test-directions.pdf>

Once students have registered with the VPT practice website, they may access five different practice exams. *VPT Math - Practice Units 1-5* covers the material in MTE modules 1-5, which is a prerequisite for the Quantitative and Statistical Reasoning Path. *VPT Math - Practice Units 6-9* covers the material in MTE modules 6-9, which is a prerequisite for the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Path.

Students interested in the STEM Path should review the material within both *VPT Math - Practice Units 6-9* and the *VPT Math - Practice Units 1-5* exams. The *VPT Math - Practice Calculus NO Trig* covers the material necessary to place into Applied Calculus (MTH 261), Statistics (MTH 245), or Trigonometry (MTH 162*). The *VPT Math - Practice Calculus with Trig* covers the additional Trigonometry material necessary to place into Calculus 1. Students interested in placing directly into higher level math should review the material found with the Academic Center for Excellence’s website. The *VPT English – Practice Exam* will cover content within the discipline of English.

Helpful Placement Test Review Websites

CollegeBoard: critical reading, writing, and math skill preparation

http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/prep_one/prep_one.html

Although this site is specifically geared towards information covered on the SATs, the topics reviewed are similar to the subjects students will encounter on the VPT Math and VPT English tests.

Germannanna's Academic Center for Excellence's homepage: access to many helpful handouts and websites <https://www.germannanna.edu/academic-center-for-excellence/>

There are numerous handouts available for student use outside the ACE Centers at both the Locust Grove Campus and the Fredericksburg Area Campus. They can also be accessed and downloaded from Academic Center for Excellence's Germanna webpage under "Helpful Handouts."

<https://www.germannanna.edu/academic-center-for-excellence/helpful-handouts/> There are numerous helpful websites listed within the subheadings below, and they can be accessed from the "Academic Links" area of the ACE website.

<https://www.germannanna.edu/academic-center-for-excellence/academic-links/>

Helpful English Handouts can be accessed by going to:

<https://www.germannacollege.edu/academic-center-for-excellence/virginia-placement-test-resources/>

- [Comma Rules](#)
 - [Controlling Idea/Topic Sentences](#)
 - [Creating a Thesis Statement](#)
 - [Getting English Ready](#)
 - [Guide to Writing an Essay](#)
 - [VCCS English VPT Review](#)
- ESL Accuplacer
- [Prepositions](#)
 - [Pronoun Antecedent Agreement](#)
 - [Verb Tenses](#)

Helpful English Websites

- Guide to Grammar and Writing: index of various grammar and writing topics

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/index2.htm>

This site provides a searchable database of various grammar and writing topics with examples that illustrate the concept. Within the index list is a link to “Quizzes,” and a link to “FAQs.”

- Purdue University’s Online Writing Lab: guides students on the writing process, mechanics, grammar, development of thesis statements, and much more

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/>

This site includes useful articles on the writing process including academic writing, common writing assignments, mechanics, grammar, punctuation, and other topics listed under the “General Writing” subheading within the menu on the left-hand side.

Helpful Math Handouts can be accessed by going to:

<https://www.germannna.edu/academic-center-for-excellence/virginia-placement-test-resources/>

Pre-Algebra

- [Cumulative MTE 1-9 Review](#)
- [Getting Math Ready](#)
- [Resources for reviewing basic math skills](#)
- [Order of Operations and Signed Numbers](#)
- [Decimals, Fractions and Percents](#)
- [Geometric Formulas](#)
- [Introduction to Fractions](#)
- [Linear Equations](#)
- [Introduction to Word Problems](#)

Algebra

- [Cumulative MTE 1-9 Review](#)
- [Exponents, Radicals, and Scientific Notation](#)
- [Logarithms](#)
- [Factoring Methods](#)
- [Completing the Square](#)
- [The Quadratic Formula and the Discriminant](#)
- [Graphing Polynomial Functions](#)

Calculus

- [Common Derivatives and Integrals](#)
- [Common Trigonometric Angle Measurements](#)

Helpful Math Videos can be accessed by going to:

<https://www.germannacollege.edu/academic-center-for-excellence/virginia-placement-test-resources/>

MTE 1

- [Simplifying Fractions](#)
- [Fractions and Mixed Numbers](#)
- [Multiplying Fractions](#)
- [Dividing Fractions](#)
- [Adding and Subtracting Fractions](#)
- [Adding and Subtracting Fractions with Unlike Denominators](#)
- [Order of Operations](#)

MTE 2

- [Decimals](#)
- [Adding and Subtracting Decimals](#)
- [Multiplying Decimals](#)
- [Percent](#)

MTE 3

- [Adding and Subtracting Integers](#)
- [Multiplying and Dividing Integers](#)
- [Simplifying Algebraic Expressions](#)
- [Solving Linear Equations](#)
- [Scientific Notation](#)
- [Solving a Proportion](#)

MTE 4

- [Addition Properties of Equality](#)
- [Multiplication Properties of Equality](#)
- [Solving Linear Equations with One Variable](#)
- [Linear Inequalities with One Variable](#)
- [Solving Inequalities with Interval Notation](#)
- [Absolute Value Equations](#)

MTE 5

- [Rectangular Coordinate System](#)
- [Graphing Linear Equations](#)
- [Equations of Lines](#)
- [Linear Inequalities](#)
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[Solving Systems of Linear Equations by Graphing](#)

- [Graphing Two-Variable Inequalities](#)
- [Substitution](#)
- [Elimination](#)

MTE 6

- [Exponents](#)
- [Polynomials](#)
- [Adding and Subtraction Polynomials](#)
- [Multiplying Polynomials](#)
- [Dividing Polynomials](#)
- [Factoring Methods](#)
- [Solving Equations by Factoring](#)

MTE 7

- [Simplify Rational Expressions](#)
- [Multiplying Rational Expressions](#)
- [Dividing Rational Expressions](#)
- [Adding Rational Expressions](#)
- [Subtracting Rational Expressions](#)
- [Solving Rational Equations](#)

MTE 8

- [Radical Expression](#)
- [Rational Exponents](#)
- [Simplifying Radicals](#)
- [Radical Equations](#)
- [Complex Numbers](#)

MTE 9

- [Relations and Functions](#)
- [Domain and Range of a Quadratic Equation](#)
- [Solving Quadratic Equations](#)
- [Graphing Quadratic Equations with Standard Form](#)
- [Graphing Quadratic Equations by Identifying Roots and Vertex](#)

Helpful Math Websites

- KhanAcademy: video tutorials on various Math and other topics.

<http://www.khanacademy.org/>

This site provides access to thousands of video tutorials on several course topics including Math, Biology, SAT prep, Physics, Chemistry, History, and many others. Use the search feature to find the topic you would like to review. Most videos are less than ten minutes in length.

- That Quiz: math practice quizzes.

<http://www.thatquiz.org/>

This site provides many practice problems for a variety of math topics from Arithmetic to Geometry and Calculus. Quiz results only demonstrate which problems were answered correctly or incorrectly; they do not provide the solutions.

- Math.com: tutorials, practice problems, calculators, and games.

<http://math.com/homeworkhelp/PreAlgebra.html>

Math.com features tutorials on various math topics, including Pre-algebra, Math Basics, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Statistics, and Calculus. There are also online calculators available for use, as well as a variety of games that will strengthen math skills.

- AAA Math: multiplication practice.

<http://www.aaastudy.com/mul.htm>

This site provides lessons and practice problems on basic multiplication. Other math topics can be accessed by clicking on the links located within the left-hand menu.

- Algebra.help: lessons and practice problems.

<http://www.algebrahelp.com/worksheets/>

This site provides lessons and practice problems with a step-by-step guide to the solutions.