PLACEMENT TESTING FOR ENTERING STUDENTS

All entering freshmen, as well as transferring students, are required to demonstrate competence in basic skills of reading and mathematics. Foreign language placement testing is required for placement into some French, German or Spanish classes.

Mathematics: TU requires all entering freshmen and most transfer students to take the online ALEKS Placement, Preparation and Learning (ALEKS PPL) Assessment to ensure the best chance of success in an appropriate mathematics course.

Students with college level mathematics course credit (AP or transfer coursework) may be exempt from taking the mathematics placement test:

- If a chosen major has no specific mathematics requirement and the AP/transfered college level mathematics coursework satisfies Core 3 of TU's Core Curriculum (https://www.towson.edu/academicadvising/current/curriculum.html), the student is exempt from taking ALEKS.
- If a chosen major requires only MATH 231 or MATH 237 and the AP/transfered college level mathematics coursework satisfies Core 3 of TU’s Core Curriculum (https://www.towson.edu/academicadvising/current/curriculum.html), the student is exempt from ALEKS.
- If transferred coursework either satisfies the specific mathematics course required of the major, or it satisfies the prerequisite course for mathematics requirements, the student is exempt from ALEKS.
- If AP credit is awarded for Calculus or transferred credit is equivalent to TU’s College Algebra or Pre-Calculus (or higher), the student is exempt from ALEKS.
- If none of the above applies, the student must take ALEKS.

Updates and exemptions regarding the Reading Placement Test will be reflected on the students "To Do List."

For additional information, please refer to the Reading Placement Testing website (https://www.towson.edu/tutoring-learning/reading-placement-testing).

*The SAT and ACT scores must be officially submitted to TU’s Office of Admissions.

Foreign Languages: Students wishing to enroll in Spanish classes at the 100 or 200 level as well as in 301 who do not already have college credit for the language must take the online placement test administered by the Foreign Languages Department. The link to the placement test can be found on the department website (https://www.towson.edu/cla/departments/foreignlanguages).

Reading: The reading placement test is administered by TU’s Tutoring & Learning Center for transfer students and incoming freshmen with low SAT and ACT scores. The reading placement test is part of a suite of testing products commonly referred to as ACCUPLACER® tests. These tests were developed by the College Board to help colleges and universities accurately assess student skill levels.

All admitted freshmen with a SAT score less than 550 in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, or an ACT Reading score less than 21 are REQUIRED to take the reading placement test. A reading placement test score below 251 in NEXT generation will require a student to enroll in and complete REED 102. Unless exempt, all transfer students with fewer than 30 credits are required to take the reading placement test.

Exemptions from the reading test are listed below: