



## NEW TESTING PROCEDURES

Beginning Monday, November 7, 2011, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College (JSRCC) will initiate a new placement testing process. Under the leadership of the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), JSRCC will now administer the Virginia Placement Test (VPT) for the assessment of math skills in relationship to courses requiring math placement. It is the first installment of a comprehensive placement tool that will be used at all Virginia community colleges. The information below outlines specific aspects of the testing process at JSRCC that all individuals need to know. *Please read this document in its entirety.*

### About the Virginia Placement Test

The VPT is a VCCS developed math placement test that provides Colleges an in-depth understanding of a student's proficiency in math. The test:

- Is comprised of two parts: a basic math test, and a diagnostic portion that allows for us to accurately place a student in the appropriate math course at the College
- Takes approximately one (1) to three (3) hours to complete
- Provides recommendations in the form of a report on math courses based on a student's performance on a test at that time.

### How Do the New Testing Procedures Affect Students?

Implementation of the VPT will impact students in several ways. Below is guidance on the different scenarios, with recommendation on how students may proceed.

#### Currently Enrolled Students

Individuals currently enrolled at the College, who have not taken any math course(s), have the following options:

- If a currently enrolled student has taken the math portion of the Compass placement test, and his/her scores are no more than one year old, the College will honor those scores and provide a recommendation based on the placement levels under Compass and the old developmental math course structure. *Students in this category should be cautioned to know that their math placement recommendation under the old math placement process does not directly correlate to the new math placement recommendations. He/she should consult with an advisor to determine what courses are needed based on their placement recommendation and determine if a retest is needed.*
- If a currently enrolled student has not taken the math portion of the placement test, he/she will be required to take the VPT.
- Currently enrolled students whose math placement scores are more than one year old, and who have not taken any math courses will need to take the VPT.

## New Students

- **High school graduates** – High school graduates who would like to enroll in courses that require placement test will be required to take the Compass placement test (reading and writing) – if applicable, and the VPT for a math assessment, if applicable.
- **Non high school graduates** – Non high school graduates consists of various categories that include: individuals who are no longer enrolled in high school, who want to pursue curricular and / or non curricular course options at the College; and individuals who are currently enrolled in high school who would like to take courses at the College as dual-enrolled, concurrently enrolled, or home-schooled students.
  - All non-high school graduates must take the Compass Placement test in order to demonstrate either Ability-to-Benefit (for financial aid), or to demonstrate College Readiness (as outlined in [JSRCC Policy 1-11, Admissions](#)). Non high school graduates must take all sections of Compass in one sitting in order to meet this requirement.
  - If the non-high school graduate is interested in a course requiring a math placement, then the individual will need to complete the VPT in addition to the Compass placement test.

## General Provisions and Recommendations

**Cost** – It costs \$6 per sitting to complete the placement process. If a student completes one portion of the placement test (for example, Compass Reading) and returns on another day to take another portion of the test, he/she will be assessed an additional \$6.

**Time to Complete Placement Process** – The Compass placement test (all sections) can take as much as two (2) to four (4) hours to complete. The Virginia Placement Test can take one (1) to three (3) hours to complete. If a student would like to take all portions of the placement tests in one sitting, he/she should allot as much as five hours to complete the process. However, students may take portion(s) of the test on one day, and the remainder on another day in order to complete the process.

**Validity of Scores** – Reading and Writing placement scores are valid for one (1) year. VPT math placement recommendations are valid for two (2) years.

**Retake Policy** – Students may retake any part of the placement test after four (4) months. For the VPT, this retake policy is allowable within one (1) year, if the student has not taken any developmental math course. If the student has taken a developmental math course (at any VCCS institution), then a retake is not allowed.

**Waiver Options** – Students may waive all or portions of the placement test in accordance with JSRCC Policy 2-12. Please see the [addendum](#) to Policy 2-12 for more information regarding the criteria for waiving a course.

**Students with Disabilities** – Students who require testing accommodations should see staff in our Office of Student Accommodations before taking the placement test. In accordance with [JSRCC Policy 1-15](#), he/she will need to provide documentation regarding his/her disability in order to receive an accommodation. Student Accommodations staff can be reached at (804) 523-5628 (Downtown Campus), or (804) 523-5290 (Parham Road and Goochland Campuses).

## Practice Tests

Individuals may take a practice test in order to determine their readiness for the VPT. To take the practice test a student must:

1. Go to <https://college.measuredsuccess.com>
2. Select "VCCS Practice Test Institution" from the Institution drop down box
3. Select "VCCS Practice Test" from the site drop down box
4. Enter, "VCCS" as the password

### Student Information Fields

5. Complete all required fields that have a red asterisk \*
6. **STOP** at the **Student ID field**. READ IMPORTANT INSTRUCTION BELOW!
  - Enter "JSR" before your 7 digit student id number. *Ex: JSR6234567*
  - Failure to enter JSR before your student id number will cause difficulties and delays when it is time for you to take the "real" placement test in the VCCS Testing Centers.
  - If you do not have a student ID, enter JSR + any five-digit number.
  - You will be sent an email confirming your username and password to the email address that you list in the student registration form.
7. Select "submit" once you have completed the Practice Test Registration form. You will then enter the practice test.

Registrants may take one of two or both practice tests which contain the following:

#### Practice Test 1

- Whole Numbers
- Operations with Positive Fractions
- Operations with Positive Decimals and Percents
- Algebra Basics
- First Degree Equations and Inequalities in One Variable
- Linear Equations, Inequalities, and Systems of Linear Equations in Two Variables

#### Practice Test 2

- Exponents, Factoring, and Polynomial Equations
- Rational Expressions and Equations
- Rational Exponents and Radicals
- Functions, Quadratic Equations, and Parabolas