

CPT Test Preparation

Your score on the Computerized Placement Test (CPT) provides information about your level of accomplishment in mathematics. By assessing your ability level in this area, the CPT helps to determine the mathematics course appropriate for you at this time. This is an adaptive test. Questions are chosen on the basis of your answers to previous questions. Because the test works this way, you should answer every question when it is first given. You cannot omit a question and come back to it later. No calculators are permitted for the mathematics section.

- **Review what you already know before taking this test!** Prep math courses are often necessary to prepare you for success in college level math. If a quick review is what you need, do that before taking the CPT. You may take the CPT every 30 days. If you are placed in a prep math course *you cannot retake the CPT* until you complete that course.
- **Are you trying to test into Basic Algebra II?** Then you need to score in the range 45 – 71 on the Elementary Algebra portion of the CPT.
- **Are you trying to test into Intermediate Algebra?** Then you need to score 72 or better on Elementary Algebra.

To prepare for the CPT test, begin your review by taking the Skills Assessment. This will help you to identify skills you need to remediate. After you take the assessment, complete the prescriptions that target those skills: 1) read the Chapter Reviews; 2) do the Extra Practice exercises; and 3) take the Practice Tests. Take the Comprehensive Review as final practice.

You may use any of the Math Lab's resources listed on the prescriptions. As you prepare, be realistic about your math skills. If your goal is to take College Algebra, you should have completed a minimum of two years of high school algebra. If the only algebra course you have taken is Basic Algebra I, you must take Basic Algebra II to succeed in Intermediate Algebra, and both Basic Algebra II & Intermediate Algebra to succeed in College Algebra. As algebra skills depend upon foundations built in successive courses, make sure that you are ready for each step.