



# KEAN

## ***ESL PLACEMENT TEST INFORMATION BULLETIN***

### **ESL PLACEMENT TESTING AT KEAN**

- Kean University administers the *ESL Essay, ESL Reading Skills, ESL Language Use, and Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra, and Statistics (QAS)* sections of the Next-Generation ACCUPLACER Computerized Placement Test. In addition, students who demonstrate a high level of mastery on the *Quantitative Reasoning (QAS)* section will also be administered the *Advanced Algebra and Functions (AAF)* section of the test.
- At the conclusion of the ESL Placement Test, students will be interviewed by a member of the ESL Program staff.
- The typical ESL placement testing session conducted at Kean University (for students taking the reading, writing, language use and math test sections) lasts approximately 2 hours; the ESL Interview will take an additional 15 minutes.
- You must present at least one valid photo ID (i.e. current Driver's License, HS/College/University ID, State or Federal ID Card, Passport or Naturalization Card/Certificate of Citizenship) on the day of the test. Students arriving without a valid photo ID will be denied admission to the testing lab.
- If snow forces the cancellation of an ESL placement testing session scheduled at Kean, a message providing rescheduling information will be recorded on the Placement Testing Office voice-mail at (908) 737-0340.

### **TESTING REGULATIONS**

No cell-phones (or other electronic equipment), books, dictionaries, calculators, or papers of any kind are allowed in the testing room. Please leave these items in your locked vehicle or at home. Anyone who gives or receives help during the test, will not be permitted to continue testing. Test scores can be invalidated if there is any reason to question their validity.

### **PREPARING FOR TESTING**

To ensure that test scores accurately represent your skill levels, you may wish to review basic concepts in reading, grammar, and algebra before taking ACCUPLACER. Many students find that SAT Preparation or SAT review books are helpful in refreshing their basic skills. You should also visit the placement testing website at: <http://kean.edu/placement-testing> and click on "**ACCUPLACER Resources for Students**" to view an ESL practice test/sample test questions. In addition, this ESL Information Bulletin contains detailed information about the test.

### **DESCRIPTION OF COMPUTERIZED TESTING**

You will take the ESL Placement Test at a personal computer, using the keyboard to type your essay and the mouse to click on answers to multiple-choice questions. The testing instructions and procedures are easy to understand, so prior computer experience is not necessary. A Test Administrator will always be present should you have any questions or problems.

**Answering the Questions:** The questions will appear one at a time on the computer screen. Most questions are multiple choice and all you will need to do is select the desired answer. When you have completed the question and verified your answer, a new screen will appear with your next question. Each test is untimed so that you can give each question as much thought as you wish. However, once you have verified your answer you cannot change it or return to that question. You must answer each question presented, even if you have to guess. You cannot skip questions. You will be given scratch paper to use during the math test(s).

**Adaptive Testing:** Each multiple-choice test section usually takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. However, you may take as long as you need to complete each

multiple-choice test. Except for the essay, the tests are untimed. Each test is designed using adaptive techniques. This means that the computer automatically determines which questions are presented to you based on your responses to prior questions. This technique "zeroes-in" on just the right questions to ask you without being too easy or too difficult. The greater your demonstrated skill level, the more challenging will be the questions presented to you.

**Adaptive Test Sequencing:** The adaptive nature of computerized testing also enables the administration of different tests to students with differing abilities. Kean University uses this feature in the administration of the math test sections. All students testing for math begin by taking the *Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra, and Statistics (QAS)* sections of the Next-Generation ACCUPLACER Computerized Placement Test. Then, depending on their QAS score, some students are shifted to the *Advanced Algebra and Functions (AAF)* section of the test, while others require no additional testing beyond the QAS section.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE TEST SECTIONS**

### **ESL Essay**

This test measures your ability to write effectively, which is critical to academic success. You will be given 50 minutes to produce an essay on an assigned topic. You will type and edit your essay at the computer. You will not be able to use spelling or grammar-checking tools. Your writing sample will be scored on the basis of how effectively it communicates a whole message to the readers for the stated purpose. Your score will also be based on your ability to express, organize, and support your opinions and ideas, not the position you take on the essay topic. The following characteristics of writing will be considered:

- Organization and Development – The extent to which the writer is able to focus on the assigned topic and to develop ideas clearly.

- Word Use – The extent to which the writer is able to use a wide range of words and phrases accurately.
- Sentence Use – The extent to which the writer is able to use a variety of sentence patterns with both independent and dependent clauses.
- Grammar– The extent to which the writer is able to express ideas using grammatically correct English.

### **ESL Reading Skills (20 questions)**

The ESL Reading Skills test measures your ability to read English. Specifically, it assesses your comprehension of short passages. It contains brief passages of 50 words or less and moderate length passages of 50 to 90 words. Half of this test contains straightforward comprehension items (paraphrase, locating information, vocabulary on a phrase level, and pronoun reference). The other half assesses inference skills (main idea, fact versus opinion, cause/effect logic, identifying irrelevant information, author's point of view, and applying the author's logic to another situation).

### **ESL Language Use (20 questions)**

The ESL Language Use test measures your proficiency in using correct grammar in English sentences. There are five content areas measured on this test:

- Nouns, Pronouns, Pronoun Case Structure
- Subject-Verb Agreement
- Comparatives, Adverbs, Adjectives
- Verbs
- Subordination/Coordination

### **Next-Generation Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra, and Statistics (QAS) (computer-adaptive) (untimed)**

The Next-Generation QAS test consists of 20 multiple-choice questions

An on-screen calculator is available to the student only on selected questions. For QAS, the student can select either a square root calculator or the 4-function option if the question allows a choice.

The following knowledge and skill categories are assessed:

- Rational numbers
- Ratio and Proportional Relationships
- Exponents
- Algebraic Expressions
- Linear Equations
- Linear Applications and Graphs
- Probability Sets
- Descriptive Statistics
- Geometry Concepts

**Next Generation Advanced Algebra and Functions (AAF) (computer-adaptive) (untimed)**

The Next-Generation AAF test consists of 20 multiple-choice questions.

An on-screen calculator is available to the student only on selected questions. For AAF, the question may provide access to a graphing calculator if appropriate.

The following knowledge and skill categories are assessed:

- Linear equations
- Linear applications
- Factoring
- Quadratics
- Functions
- Radical and rational equations
- Polynomial equations
- Exponential and logarithmic equations
- Geometry concepts
- Trigonometry

**ESL OFFICE:**

**(908) 737-0420**

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