



# KEAN

## ***PLACEMENT TESTING INFORMATION BULLETIN***

### **FRESHMAN PLACEMENT TESTING POLICY**

To support successful completion of the Academic Foundations courses required of all students, Kean University uses multiple criteria to determine appropriate initial course placements for incoming freshmen. University policy requires that all newly-admitted freshmen take the Next-Generation ACCUPLACER Computerized Placement Test before they register—unless they have been exempted from all or part of this test due to their SAT/ACT scores (see exemption criteria below).

### **EXEMPTION FROM PLACEMENT TESTING**

#### **Redesigned SAT (r SAT) – (New SAT)**

- Students with **SAT-ERW** scores of **510** or higher are exempt from the Reading and Writing sections of the test.
- Students with **SAT-Math** scores of **510** or higher are exempt from the Math section of the test, (*Quantitative Reasoning (QAS)*).
- Students with **SAT-ERW** scores of **510** or higher and **SAT -Math** scores of **510** or higher are exempt from all of the parts of the test as indicated above (*Reading, Writing and Quantitative Reasoning (QAS)*).
- Students with an **ACT Composite score** of **23** or higher are exempt from all of the parts of the test (*Reading, Writing and Quantitative Reasoning (QAS)*).

#### **Former SAT – (Old SAT)**

- Students with **SAT-Critical Reading (Verbal)** scores of **520** or higher are exempt from the reading section of the test.
- Students with **SAT-Writing** scores of **520** or higher are exempt from the writing section of the test.
- Students with **SAT-Math** scores of **530** or higher are exempt from the math section of the test (formerly *Elementary Algebra*).
- Students with **SAT-Critical Reading (Verbal)** scores of **520** or higher, **SAT-Writing** scores of **520** or higher **and SAT-Math** scores of **530** or higher are exempt from all of the parts of the test indicated above (*Reading, Writing, and formerly Elementary Algebra*).
- Students with an **ACT Composite Score** of **24** or higher are exempt from all of the parts of the test indicated above (*Reading, Writing, and formerly Elementary Algebra*).

### **PURPOSE OF PLACEMENT TESTING**

Placement testing provides information about your levels of proficiency in the skill areas tested (reading, writing, and math). This information is used to place you in appropriate-level courses. In some cases, these courses will be non-college-credit courses designed to improve

your skills and support your college-level studies. Because your test results will determine which courses you will be required to take, it is very important that you take the test seriously and perform to the best of your abilities.

### **STUDENTS NEEDING ACCOMMODATIONS**

If you have a physical or *documented* learning disability that may entitle you to testing accommodations based on your individual needs, please contact Ms. Donna Dingle, Disability Services; Downs Hall (DN 122), (908) 737-4910 or e-mail [disabilityservices@kean.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@kean.edu).

### **ESL STUDENTS**

If you read and/or write best in a language other than English and therefore may need to take English as a Second Language (ESL) courses, you should take the ESL Placement Test *instead* of the Next-Generation ACCUPLACER Computerized Placement Test designed for native speakers of English. To make an appointment to take the ESL Placement Test, visit the testing website at: [kean.edu/placement-testing](http://kean.edu/placement-testing) and click on Register for Test. Look for ESL test date and schedule your test session. If you are not sure if you need ESL testing or courses, please contact Kean University's ESL Program for advisement at (908) 737-0420.

### **PLACEMENT TESTING AT KEAN**

- Kean University administers the *Essay, Reading 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.
- Although Kean University does not have a Foreign Language requirement, students who have previously studied FRENCH, GERMAN, or SPANISH in high school and plan to continue studying the language, should request to take the WebCAPE Foreign Language Placement Exam immediately following the Next-Generation ACCUPLACER test. WebCAPE is designed to place incoming students in the appropriate foreign language course. This computer-adaptive test consists of grammar, reading, and vocabulary questions in a multiple-choice format.
- The typical test session conducted at Kean University (for students taking reading, writing, and math test sections) lasts approximately 2 to 2½ hours.

- 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 a placement test 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 Next-Generation 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>. Click on "ACCUPLACER Resources for Students" to view sample test questions. Both ESL and non-ESL information is available.

### **NOTIFICATION OF TEST RESULTS**

You will receive your placement test results/course placements immediately following the test. If you receive an Essay score of 5 or below (Pending), your Essay will need to be read by one of Kean's English Instructors. Your official English course placement will be given to you before you leave for the day.

### **DESCRIPTION OF COMPUTERIZED TESTING**

You will take the 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, if you wish, 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 (QAS)* section. Then, depending on their score, some students are shifted to the *Advanced Algebra and Functions (AAF)* test, while others require no additional testing beyond the *Quantitative Reasoning (QAS)* test.

### **DESCRIPTION OF TEST SECTIONS** **(College Board, 2019)**

**Essay** (WritePlacer) (50 minutes) assesses the writing skills of new college students.

WritePlacer gives students an opportunity to show how effectively they can develop and express their ideas in writing. They will first read a short passage and an assignment question that are focused on an important issue. Students will then write an essay in which they develop their own point of view. Students will need to support their position with appropriate reasoning and examples. The position the student takes will not influence their score. The essay will be given a holistic score that represents how clearly and effectively they express their position. Scores on WritePlacer range from 1 to 8. An essay that is too short to be evaluated, written on a topic other than the one presented, or written in a language other than English will be given a score of zero.

The following six characteristics of writing will be considered:

- Purpose and Focus – The extent to which the writer presents information in a unified and coherent manner, clearly addressing the issue.
- Organization and Structure – The extent to which the writer orders and connects ideas.
- Development and Support – The extent to which the writer develops and supports ideas.
- Sentence Variety and Style – The extent to which the writer crafts sentences and paragraphs

demonstrating control of vocabulary, voice, and structure.

- Mechanical Conventions – The extent to which the writer expresses ideas using Standard Written English.
- Critical Thinking – The extent to which the writer communicates a point of view and demonstrates reasoned relationships among ideas.

### **Next-Generation Reading (computer-adaptive) (untimed)**

Next-Generation Reading will be composed of 20 multiple-choice questions. New will be the use of set-based questions which include a longer reading passage with 4 questions. The first set will include 4 questions based on a literary passage while the second set will have 4 questions based on a pair of shorter passages. The remaining 12 questions will have individual, brief informational passages for each question or will be a single-sentence vocabulary question.

Four broad knowledge and skill categories are assessed:

- Information and Ideas
- Rhetoric
- Synthesis
- Vocabulary

### **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

### **Sample Test Questions:**

*Please visit the following website:*

<https://www.kean.edu/placement-testing>

*Click on ACCUPLACER Resources for Students to review sample questions.*

### **Placement Testing Office:**

*Please call: (908) 737-0340*