NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH

Entry Testing for Non-Native Speakers of English

Instruction at Valencia is in the English language. Students must have adequate mastery of the English language to pursue a course of study for credit. If you are seeking a degree or a career certificate or you are a Dual Enrollment student, you must complete an approved entry test. If you want to enroll in a course with an English, reading or mathematics prerequisite, and you have not satisfied the prerequisite through successful completion of course work, as determined by Valencia, you must complete the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT) and an approved entry test (LOEP, Compass ESL, IELTS or TOEFL).

You will not be required to demonstrate English as a second language proficiency if you have completed Freshman English Composition or its equivalent (as determined by Valencia) with a grade of C or higher; or have earned an Associate in Arts degree, Bachelor’s degree or higher at an institution in which English was the language of instruction. Official college/university transcripts are required for documenting English proficiency.

LOEP, Compass ESL Test, IELTS and TOEFL

The LOEP, Compass ESL, IELTS, and TOEFL are the tests of English proficiency for non-native speakers of English used for initial course placement at Valencia. Most students take only one of these four tests. LOEP and Compass ESL must have been taken at Valencia to be accepted. Scores from any of the tests listed above must be less than two years old at the time of term registration.

The LOEP test includes a typed essay in English and three additional sections: reading skills, sentence meaning, and language usage. Your placement will be based on an average of these scores. You must have applied to Valencia and paid the college application fee to take the LOEP test. No additional fee is required for the first attempt. The LOEP test may be taken on any Valencia campus; allow approximately two hours for completion. To take the LOEP visit an Assessment Office on any campus and bring an official, government-issued photo identification such as a driver’s license or a passport. You may take the LOEP twice in a one-year period with a 1-day wait time between tests. Number of attempts is calculated from the anniversary of your first attempt. Once you begin course work in English for Academic Purposes, you are no longer eligible to retest on the LOEP test.

The Compass ESL test includes a written essay in English and a reading section. Your placement is based on an average of these scores. Compass ESL scores are valid for two years and will only be accepted if taken previously at Valencia. Compass ESL scores from other institutions are not accepted.

The TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and IELTS (International English Language Testing System) exams are offered in test centers throughout the world. To use a TOEFL or IELTS score at Valencia, you must submit an official score report to International Student Services.

Immigrants, Refugees and U.S. Citizens Who Do Not Speak English as a Native Language

If you are an immigrant (Permanent Resident), refugee or U.S. citizen who does not speak English as a native language, your entry testing will begin with the PERT, and you may also be required to complete the LOEP test.

If you know you want to improve your English language skills through English as a second language courses, you may ask to begin with the LOEP test; however you will still be asked to take the PERT.

If your test scores placed you beyond EAP courses, the PERT in English, reading and mathematics will be used to place you in appropriate courses.

The Testing/Placement Chart for English for Academic Purposes that provides scores and corresponding course placements is located at http://catalog.valenciacollege.edu/entrytestingplacementmandatorycourses/testingplacementcharts/.

If you place in EAP courses, you may take the Math portion of the PERT for math course placement once you have begun EAP Level 5 or placed into Level 6 courses. In addition, if you place into EAP Levels 2, 3 or 4, you will not be required to attend a New Student Orientation. Your placement and course registration will be explained to you by an Academic Advisor. Please go to a Student Services Office on any campus to meet with an Academic Advisor. For further information about the PERT, see the PERT (http://catalog.valenciacollege.edu/entrytestingplacementmandatorycourses/pert) page.

Non-Immigrants (International Students)

If you are an international student and wish to be admitted to Valencia on a non-immigrant visa (F or J), your test scores must place you at level 4 or higher.

The Testing/Placement Chart for English for Academic Purposes (EAP) that provides scores and corresponding course placements is located at http://catalog.valenciacollege.edu/entrytestingplacementmandatorycourses/testingplacementcharts/.

If you place in EAP courses, you may take the Math portion of the PERT for math course placement once you have begun EAP Level 5 or placed into Level 6 courses. You may enroll in a math course along with your EAP Level 6 courses.