Setting the Right Course for College Success
WHAT IS “COMPASS”? 

The COMPASS TEST is a computerized test used by Southeast Arkansas College to evaluate your current academic skills to place you in the proper college courses to ensure your success as a student!

- English Comp I 1313
- Elementary Algebra MATH-1013
- Reading READ-1213
- College Algebra MATH-1313
- Fundamentals of Writing ENGL-1113
IS THE COMPASS TEST IMPORTANT?

YES!!!

Your COMPASS Test scores will determine the classes you will have to take.
SO WHAT HAPPENS IF I HAVE A BAD DAY OR JUST BLOW OFF THE COMPASS TEST?

1. You may take courses you do not need to take.
2. You may take longer to graduate than is necessary.
3. You may spend money you don’t have to spend.
4. You may use up your financial aid before you complete all your required courses.
WHAT SUBJECTS ARE ON THE COMPASS TEST?

The COMPASS Test covers three subjects:

Reading

Writing

Mathematics

All questions are multiple choice and only require a simple click of the mouse. The test is not timed but will take about 90 minutes to complete.
WHAT SCORE DO I HAVE TO MAKE TO PASS THE TEST?

The COMPASS Test is not a pass/fail test; it is an assessment of your current skills.

Academic Advisors will use your scores to assist you in determining which courses you need to take to meet your desired educational goal.

The chart on the next slide shows the scoring requirements for various courses at SEARK College.
## COMPASS TEST PLACEMENT CHART

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH PLACEMENT *</th>
<th>COMPASS SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic English</td>
<td>0 – 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Fundamentals</td>
<td>33 – 74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Composition I</td>
<td>75+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>READING PLACEMENT *</th>
<th>COMPASS SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developmental Reading</td>
<td>0 – 81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Reading Course Required</td>
<td>82+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATHEMATICS PLACEMENT *</th>
<th>COMPASS SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fundamentals of Math</td>
<td>0 – 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Algebra</td>
<td>18 – 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Algebra or Business Math</td>
<td>30 – 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Algebra</td>
<td>41+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Consult an Academic Advisor for additional placement options*
WHEN SHOULD I TAKE THE COMPASS TEST?

Once you have made your decision to enroll at SEARK College, the COMPASS Test should be taken early in the enrollment process.

If you have recently taken the ACT test and scored less than 19 on any subject area you are required to take the COMPASS Test in that subject area.

Most importantly, you should take the COMPASS Test only after you fully understand the importance of the test and feel you are fully prepared academically by studying for the test, mentally by approaching the test with a positive attitude, and physically by getting adequate rest prior to taking the test.
HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR THE TEST?

Familiarize yourself with the types of questions that you can expect to see on the COMPASS Test.

- [www.testprepreview.com/compass.practice.htm](http://www.testprepreview.com/compass.practice.htm)
  This website provides short modules that help you determine which topics you should review before taking the test.

- [www.act.org/compass/sample/index.html](http://www.act.org/compass/sample/index.html)
  This website provides examples of (1) how test questions will appear on the test and (2) an opportunity to practice your test taking skills. You can also review test taking tips and calculator guidelines at this site.
HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR THE TEST?

• Get adequate sleep so you will be alert and focused during the test.

• Concentrate on doing your best. Answers you selected for previous questions will determine the next level of questions you will answer.

• Take your time. Unlike many standardized tests, the COMPASS Test is not timed.

• Read and follow test instructions.

Do not take the COMPASS Test until you feel you are prepared and ready to do the best you can do.
OKAY, I’M READY TO TAKE THE TEST. WHAT DO I DO?

Contact Ron Boren at 870-850-3062 or email rboren@seark.edu for information and scheduling of your COMPASS Test.
LET’S REVIEW

1. The COMPASS Test is a placement test required for entry into SEARK College.
2. Doing your best on the COMPASS Test is important because your scores will determine if you will go directly into college level courses or have to retake courses you had in high school.
3. The COMPASS Test covers three subjects: Reading, Writing, and Math.
4. Each subject has different score requirements.
5. You should take the COMPASS Test early in the enrollment process but only after you have prepared for the test.
6. You can prepare for the test by visiting web sites to answer practice questions.
7. You need to get a good night’s rest, concentrate on doing your best, take your time, read and follow all instructions, and approach the test with a positive attitude.
8. Visit or contact Ron Boren, Coordinator, Testing and Tutoring, to schedule your COMPASS Test – 870-850-3062.