

Frequently Asked Questions: ESL Placement Test

What is the test? We use the ACT Compass English as a Second Language Placement Test.

<http://www.act.org/compass/tests/esl.html>

Where is the test?

The test is in EMU's Halle Library. The library is located near Oakwood Street. The testing room is 111 or 110. They are in the back of the library on the first floor.

Where can I park?

Pay parking is available along Oakwood Street. Park in lot D2, G, or A. The cost is \$1.00 an hour.

What should I bring?

Photo ID card (passport, license, etc.)

EMU ID Number (E0*****)

Pencil

How long will it take? The test takes about 3 hours

What is the format of the test? There are 4 parts to the test. Parts 2-3 are **computer** based.

Part 1: Writing

You will be asked to write an opinion essay on one specific topic. Or you will be asked to write a position essay on a particular issue and provide a solution. This is a 50 minute, hand-written, assessment. You will be given a piece of paper to write your essay. Please bring a pencil. No dictionaries are permitted.

Part 2: Listening

Time: You will have approximately 30 minutes to complete part 2.

Listening includes approximately 11 questions. Question types include recognizing simple social cues, recognizing instructions and directions, recognizing main ideas and details. Questions become harder as you continue through each section.

Part 3: Reading

Time: You will have approximately 30 minutes to complete part 3.

Reading includes approximately 13 questions. Question types include recognizing the main idea of a picture, inferring meaning, vocabulary, style and tone, locating explicit details, recognizing

main ideas and details, applying new concepts to the passage. Questions become harder as you continue through each section.

Part 4: Oral Interview (5-10 minutes)

You will meet with an ESL Staff for your oral interview. He/she will ask you questions about general, personal, or academic topics. The questions will increase in difficulty.

How will I know my placement results?

You will receive your placement results within 48 hours after taking the test. You will receive your results by email.

Can I retake the test?

In the event that a student feels his/her scores and placement misrepresent his/her language ability, he or she may retake **part** of the ESL Program Placement Test. Students may retake the Listening and/or Reading computer-based sections. Students may not retake the writing or speaking sections. To retake the ESL Program Placement Test (Listening/Reading), the student must:

1. Register for the next available test if one is available before the first day of classes. Please visit emich.edu/esl to view the retake test schedule.
2. Pay a fee of \$20.00.

The higher score for each skill (Listening, Reading, Writing (No Speaking Retake)) will be considered for final placement.

★ **Students cannot retake the ESL Placement test after classes begin.** To schedule a retake test before classes start, contact the Testing and Assessment Coordinator at eluyendy@emich.edu.

How can I prepare?

The following links will help you to prepare for the test.

Writing:

[Organization in Writing Practice](#)

[Language and Mechanics in Writing Practice](#)

Reading:

[Beginner/ Intermediate Practice](#)

[Advanced/Academic Reading Practice 1](#)

[Advanced/ Academic Reading Practice 2](#)

[Vocabulary Resource](#)

Listening:

[All Levels Listening Practice and Quizzes](#)

Speaking:

[Conversations with People Around the World](#)

[Conversations with a Robot](#)

[Pronunciation Resources](#)

Sample Test Questions: Go to <http://www.act.org/compass/sample/index.html>

Test-Taking Tips: <http://www.act.org/compass/student/tips.html>

General Compass Test Information: <http://www.act.org/compass/student/index.html>