Overview of the Computerized Placement Tests™ (CPTs)™

The CPTs are <u>not timed</u> (take as long as you need to complete them). Most students take between 30 and 40 minutes to complete each test.

You may leave your testing session at any time (for example, for illness or a scheduled appointment). You can return to complete the testing any time within five workdays. When you recommence, you will begin at the exact point at which you left.

Questions on the CPTs are randomly selected and no two students will have the same questions. Therefore, if you retake the same test, you will be presented with a different set of questions. For this reason, retesting is allowed. However, evidence shows that, without significant intervention (that is, study, coursework, or the like) between testing sessions, the scores will vary only slightly. It should be pointed out that, barring extraordinary circumstances or intervention, retest scores tend to be slightly lower than the original scores.

Reading Comprehension

- 20 questions of two types:
    - <u>A reading passage</u> followed by a question based on the text that relates to the main or a secondary idea presented, the application of the information contained in the text, or an inference based on the text.
    - <u>Two sentences</u> followed by a question about the relationship between them (for example, if the second sentence supports the first, contradicts it, or repeats the same information).
- Scores range on a scale of 20 to 120.

Sentence Skills

- 20 questions of two types:
    - <u>Sentence-correction questions</u> in which you are asked to choose the most appropriate word or phrase to substitute for the underlined portion of the sentence.
    - <u>Construction-shift questions</u> in which you are asked to rewrite a sentence according to given criteria while maintaining essentially the same meaning as the original.
- Some test questions deal with the logic of the sentence presented, others with whether or not the answer is a complete sentence, and still others with the relationship between coordination and subordination.
- Scores range on a scale of 20 to 120.

Multiple Measures and Skill Labs

Test scores are only one way to measure skills. In order to achieve a clearer picture of your abilities and potentials, you should review your scores, past academic achievements, and nontraditional (job/life) experiences with an SCC counselor or a member of the faculty in the department in which you intend to enroll. If you believe you should be allowed to enroll in a higher-level writing class than recommended because your writing skills are better than

your test scores indicate, please study the booklet "English Department Entry Skills Guide" (available at the Counseling Center) <u>before</u> seeing a counselor to discuss this concern.

If you feel under-prepared or "rusty" in a skill area (reading, writing, mathematics), it could be very useful to enroll in an English Skills Lab prior to taking regular academic courses. Labs provide you with one-on-one, customized help, and operate on a variable-unit/drop-in basis to meet your scheduling needs.

Sample CPT™ Questions

The following are samples of the types of questions found in both the Reading Comprehension and in the Sentence Skills components of the CPTs. You will answer 20 questions in each test. The questions are drawn randomly from question pools. They begin at a moderate level of difficulty and vary up or down based on the correctness of your answers. The questions are also balanced on the basis of content categories, including the social sciences, natural and physical sciences, human relations and practical affairs, and the arts.

As with any testing, be sure you read and understand the question and all available responses before you select the most appropriate one. You will be asked to validate your answer before going on to the next question. You may change your answer anytime before you validate it. However, once you have validated your answer, moving you to the next question, you will <u>not</u> be able to return to make any changes in prior questions.

Reading Comprehension

Question 1 — Comprehension

Read the statement or passage and then choose the best answer to the question. Answer the question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the statement or passage.

There are two types of pottery that I do. There is production pottery-mugs, tableware, the kinds of things that sell easily. These pay for my time to do the other work, which is more creative and satisfies my needs as an artist.

The author of the passage implies that:

      (A) artists have a tendency to waste valuable time.

      (B) creativity and mass-production are incompatible.

      (C) buyers of mugs never appreciate good art.

      (D) pottery is not produced by creative artists.

Question 2 — Sentence Relationships

Two underlined sentences are followed by a question or statement about them. Read each pair of sentences and then choose the best answer to the question or the best completion of the statement.

The Midwest is experiencing its worst drought in fifteen years.

Corn and soybean prices are expected to be very high this year.

What does the second sentence do?

       (A) It restates the idea found in the first.

       (B) It states an effect.

       (C) It gives an example.

       (D) It analyzes the statement made in the first.

Sentence Skills

Question 1 — Sentence Correction

Select the best version of the underlined part of the sentence. The first choice is the same as the original sentence. If you think the original sentence is best, choose the first answer.

Ms. Rose planning to teach a course in biology next summer.

       (A) planning

       (B) are planning

       (C) with a plan

       (D) plans

Question 2 — Construction Shift

Rewrite the sentence in your head, following the directions given below. Keep in mind that your new sentence should be well written and should have essentially the same meaning as the sentence given you.

Being a female jockey, she was often interviewed.

Rewrite, beginning with

She was often interviewed…

The next words will be

       (A) on account of she was

       (B) by her being

(C) because she was

(D) being as she was