

# Course Placement Guide

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## Introduction

Durham Technical Community College accepts students' college transcripts, unweighted high school GPA, ACT, SAT, GED, HiSET, NCDAP, COMPASS, ASSET, and ACCUPLACER scores for college placement.

Students who have completed associate degrees or higher are college-ready and can take any gateway 100-level course on their plan of study. Students with associate's degrees or higher from other countries should visit the Center for the Global Learner for support.

Students who do not already hold an associate degree or higher must use their unweighted high school GPA for placement if they graduated from an accredited high school in the United States. ACT, SAT, NCDAP, COMPASS, ASSET, and ACCUPLACER scores can be used for placement within ten years from the date taken.

Students who graduated from a high school **outside** of the US will be required to take the ACCUPLACER ESL test for placement in English for Academic Purposes (EAP) courses to satisfy English proficiency requirements. If students pass the ACCUPLACER ESL test (demonstrate maximum proficiency levels on the ACCUPLACER ESL test to qualifying for the next step in placement), then they will take the Durham Tech local placement tests where they will be placed into the appropriate classes and informed about the English for Academic Purposes department.

Students who graduated from a US high school and meet any of the **college-ready indicators** (U.S. High School GPA of 2.2 or higher and/or meet any of the college-ready indicators defined below) but their first language is

not US English will be recommended to meet with the English for Academic Purposes department for advising support. If they do not meet any of the college-ready indicators (U.S. High School GPA below 2.2 and no other college-ready indicators), they will be required to take the ACCUPLACER ESL test and then visit an advisor in English for Academic Purposes for advising. If students pass the ACCUPLACER ESL test (demonstrate maximum proficiency levels on the ACCUPLACER test), then they will place in the prerequisite courses for English and Math.

Durham Tech will use the placement measure that gives students the highest placement into college coursework. For example, if a student's unweighted US high school GPA does not place the student into college-level English, but the student's SAT score does, then Durham Tech will use the student's SAT score for English placement.

Students who lack the appropriate high school GPA and who have ACT, SAT, GED, HiSET, NCDAP, COMPASS, ASSET, and ACCUPLACER scores that do not place them into college-level courses and/or who want to challenge their placement will have the opportunity to take the Durham Tech Local Placement Test for placement into appropriate courses.

See the following pages for more information on students can use the various measures for placement.

## Placement Via High School GPA

Students who graduated from a US high school must submit their high school transcript to Durham Tech for evaluation. They must use their unweighted US high school GPA for placement into college courses.

### Special notes for Adult High School graduates:

- Graduates of all Adult High School programs on or after July 1, 2021 must use their high school GPAs for placement.
- Graduates of Durham Tech's Adult High School/Gateway to College program prior to July 1, 2021 who completed all 22 high school credits at Durham Tech must use their high school GPAs for placement.
- Graduates of Adult High School programs prior to July 1, 2021 who have a combination of credits from different schools cannot use their high school GPAs for placement.

Unweighted US High School GPA	English Placement	Math Placement <i>consult Plan of Study for required MAT coursework</i>
2.8 or higher	ENG 111	MAT 121, MAT 143, MAT 152, MAT 171
Between 2.2 and 2.799	ENG 111 and ENG 045	MAT 121 and MAT 045A MAT 143 and MAT 045Q MAT 152 and MAT 045S MAT 171 and MAT 045P
2.199 or lower	ENG 025	MAT 110 MAT 025 or MAT 035

## Placement Via ACT Scores

Students must submit official ACT scores to Durham Tech for evaluation. Students can alternatively log into the password protected ACT website in the presence of a Durham Tech admissions officer or advisor to show their test scores. See the tables below for ACT English and math placement guides.

ACT Scores	English Placement
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ENG 18 or higher OR READ 22 or higher	ENG 111
ENG 16-17 OR READ 20-21	ENG 111 and ENG 045
ENG 15 or lower OR READ 19 or lower	ENG 025

ACT Scores	Math Placement
MATH 27* or higher	MAT 271
MATH 22 or higher	MAT 121, MAT 143, MAT 152, MAT 171
MATH 20-21	MAT 121 and MAT 045A MAT 143 and MAT 045Q MAT 152 and MAT 045S MAT 171 and MAT 045P
MATH 19 or lower	MAT 110 MAT 025 or MAT 035

\* Must also have a grade of C or higher in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study Pre-Calculus course or an equivalent course from another state.

## Placement Via SAT Scores

Students must submit official SAT scores to Durham Tech for evaluation. Students can alternatively log into the password protected College Board website in the presence of a Durham Tech admissions officer or advisor to show their test scores. See the tables below for SAT English and math placement guides.

Minimum SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Score <i>if taken in or after March 2016</i>	Minimum SAT Scores in Critical Reading and Writing <i>if taken prior to March 2016</i>	English Course
480	500	ENG 111
479 or lower	499 or lower	ENG 025

Minimum SAT Math Score <i>if taken in or after March 2016</i>	Minimum SAT Mathematics Score <i>if taken prior to March 2016</i>	Mathematics Course
600*	580	MAT 271
530	500	MAT 121, MAT 143, MAT 152, MAT 171
529 or lower	499 or lower	MAT 110, MAT 025 or MAT 035

\*Must also have a grade of C or higher in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study Pre-Calculus course or an equivalent course from another state.

## Placement Via GED Scores

Students must submit official GED scores to Durham Tech for evaluation. See the tables below for GED English and math placement guides. Note that the scores are required in all four GED subject tests (Math, Reasoning Through Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science).

GED Test Scores	English Placement	Math Placement
165 or higher on all four subject tests	ENG 111	MAT 121, MAT 143, MAT 152, MAT 171
All subject tests higher than 144; at least one lower than 165	ENG 111 and ENG 045	MAT gateway and corequisite
144 or lower on any of the four subject tests	ENG 025 or take the Durham Tech English Placement Test	MAT 110 MAT 025, MAT 035, or take the DT Math Placement Test

## Placement Via HiSET Scores

Students who took the HiSET high school equivalency test can use their scores to indicate that they are college ready. Note that scores are required in all five HiSET subject tests (Language Arts—Reading, Language Arts—Writing, Math, Social Studies, and Science) and the essay.

HiSET Test Scores	English Placement	Math Placement
15 or higher on all five subject tests and 4 or higher on the essay	ENG 111	MAT 121, MAT 143, MAT 152, MAT 171
14 or lower on any of the five subject tests or 3 or lower on the essay	ENG 025 or take the Durham Tech English Placement Test	MAT 110 MAT 025, MAT 035, or take the DT Math Placement Test

## Placement Via Career and College Ready Graduate (CCRG) High School Courses

Note: Statewide implementation of CCRG in North Carolina high schools began in Spring 2021. Students who took a CCRG English or CCRG Math course in their senior year of high school can use their CCRG English and CCRG Math grades for placement. See the tables below for CCRG English and math placement guides.

CCRG English Grade	English Placement
A	ENG-111
B	ENG 111 and ENG 045
C, D, F	ENG 025

CCRG Math Grade	Math Placement
A	MAT 121 MAT 171
B	MAT 121 and MAT 045A MAT 143

	MAT 152 MAT 171 and MAT 045P
C	MAT 143 and MAT 045Q MAT 152 and MAT 045S
D, F	MAT 110 MAT 025 or MAT 035

## Placement Via the Durham Tech Placement Test

Information forthcoming

## Advanced Math Placement

A student may place directly into MAT 271 if the student has met at least one of the following criteria within the past five years:

- A score of 27 or higher on the ACT Math and a grade of C or higher in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study Pre-Calculus course or an equivalent course from another state
- A score of 600 or higher on the SAT Math and a grade of C or higher in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study Pre-Calculus course or an equivalent course from another state.
- A score of 580 or higher on the old SAT Math (prior to March 2016) and a grade of C or higher in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study Pre-Calculus course or an equivalent course from another state
- A score of 2 or higher on the AP Calculus AB Exam
- A grade of C or higher in an AP Calculus course and an unweighted high school GPA of 3.0 or higher
- An unweighted HS GPA of 3.5 or higher and a grade of C or higher in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study Pre-Calculus course or an equivalent course from another state (for placement during the 2020-2021 academic year only)

Students whose high school GPA, ACT, SAT, or other test scores indicate that they are college ready have the option to take the College Level Math placement test (ACCUPLACER Next Gen Advanced Algebra and Functions Placement Test) to achieve placement in advanced math courses. Use this scale for placement:

ACCUPLACER Next Gen Test Score	Math Placement
60-236	MAT 171
237-276	MAT 172
Minimum 277	MAT 271

Students can also use the SAT subject tests to place into MAT 172 or MAT 271:

Minimum SAT Subject Level I Score	Minimum SAT Subject Level II Score	Math Placement
540	480	MAT 172
620	560	MAT 271

## Historical Placement Tests: RISE, NCDAP, ACCUPLACER, COMPASS, ASSET

The following placement tests are no longer offered at Durham Tech but crosswalks have been developed so that these tests can be used to place students in the current model of developmental education implemented in Fall 2025.

Scores on these tests, whether from Durham Tech or other schools, can be used for Durham Tech placement if taken within ten years of the time of placement. If the scores are from another school, it is the student's responsibility to request that other colleges send official copies of their placement test scores to Durham Tech's Testing Center (Wynn Center, Room 10-302).

### RISE Placement Test – English

RISE Placement Test and Scores	English Placement
Tier 2/Test 2 70% or higher	ENG 111
Tier 1/Test 1 70% or higher	ENG 111 and ENG 045
Tier 1/Test 1 Less than 70%	ENG 025

### RISE Placement Test – Math

RISE Placement Test and Scores	Math Placement
Tier 3/Test 3 70% or higher	MAT 121, MAT 171
Tier 2/Test 2 70% or higher	MAT 121 and MAT 045A MAT 143 MAT 152 MAT 171 and MAT 045P
Tier 1/Test 1 70% or higher	MAT 143 and MAT 045Q MAT 152 and MAT 045S
Tier 1/Test 1 Less than 70%	MAT 110 MAT 025 MAT 035

### NCDAP – Math

Prior to January 2019, there were 8 developmental math modules (DMA 010, DMA 020, DMA 030, DMA 040, DMA 050, DMA 060, DMA 070, and DMA 080). The NCDAP reports students' placement into or out of each DMA module. Students must score a 7 or higher on a module to test out of a module. There is no NCDAP test for DMA 070 and DMA 080. All students who test out of DMA 060 are waived from DMA 070 and 080.

NCDAP Placement Test and Scores	Math Placement
7+ in DMA 010-060	MAT 121, MAT 171
7+ in DMA 010-050	MAT 121 and MAT 045A MAT 143 MAT 152 MAT 171 and MAT 045P
7+ in DMA 010-030	MAT 143 and MAT 045Q MAT 152 and MAT 045S MAT 035
< 7 on any DMA 010-030	MAT 110 MAT 025 MAT 035

### NCDAP – Reading/English

To place a student in English and/or Developmental English courses using the NCDAP placement test, use this scale for placement:

NCDAP Placement Test and Scores	Math Placement
151+	ENG 111
136-150	ENG 111 and ENG 045
< 136	ENG 025

### ACCUPLACER – Math

To place a student in MAT courses, use these scales for placement:

0-54 on either the Arithmetic or Elementary Algebra Tests

MAT 025 or MAT 035

55+ on Arithmetic Test and 55-74 Elementary Algebra Test

Gateway Math with co-requisite

55+ on Arithmetic Test and 75+ on Elementary Algebra Test

Gateway Math

If the student scores 55 on Arithmetic and 75 on Elementary Algebra, begin with MAT 151, 161, 171, or take the COMPASS College Algebra Test for placement

### ACCUPLACER – College-Level Math

To place a student into college-level MAT courses, use this scale for placement:

Below 60	MAT 171
60-89	MAT 172 or MAT 263
90+	MAT 271

### ACCUPLACER – Reading/Writing

To place a student in ENG 111 and DRE courses, add the ACCUPLACER reading and sentence skills scores; use this scale for placement:

40-71	Take the NCDAP – Reading/English
72-91	ENG 025
92-128	ENG 111 and ENG 045
129-165	ENG 111

**COMPASS – Math**

To place a student in MAT courses, use these scales for placement:

**Pre-Algebra Test**

Less than 47	MAT 025 or MAT 035
47-99	MAT 025 or MAT 035 or use Algebra Test score for higher placement

**Algebra Test**

0-45	MAT 025 or MAT 035
46-65	Gateway math with corequisite
66-99	Gateway math or use College Algebra Test score for higher placement

**College Algebra Test (for advanced math placement)**

0-49	MAT 171
50-100	MAT 172 or MAT 263 or use Trigonometry Test for higher placement

**Trigonometry Test (for advanced math placement)**

0-47	MAT 172 or MAT 263
48-100	MAT 271

**COMPASS – Reading/Writing**

To place a student in ENG courses, add the COMPASS reading and writing scores; use this scale for placement:

0-63	Take the NCDAP – Reading/English
0-84	ENG 025
85-111	ENG 111 and ENG 045
112-150	ENG 111

**ASSET – Math**

To place a student in MAT courses, use these scales for placement:

**Numerical Skills Test**

23-40	MAT 025 or MAT 035
41-55	MAT 025 or Mat 035 or use the Elementary Algebra Test score for higher placement

**Elementary Algebra Test**

23-40	MAT 025 or MAT 035
41-55	Math gateway/corequisite or use the Intermediate Algebra Test for higher placement

**Intermediate Algebra Test**

23-40	Math gateway/corequisite
41-55	Math gateway



## ASSET – Reading/Writing

To place a student in DRE courses, add the ASSET reading and writing scores; use this scale for placement:

0-61	ENG 025
62-71	ENG 111 and ENG 045
72-81	ENG 111

## Placement via Coursework

This section of the document details how students place into the current model based on credit for NCCCS courses.

### Placement into ENG Courses Via RISE Coursework

Student has credit for:	ENG Placement
ENG 002 Tier 1	ENG 045/ENG 111
ENG 002 Tier 2	ENG 111
ENG 011	ENG 111

### Placement into Math Courses Via RISE Coursework

Student has MAT 003 credit for:	Desired Course				
	MAT 110	MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 171
Pre-tier 1	MAT 110	MAT 035	MAT 025	MAT 025	MAT 035
Tier 1 complete	MAT 110	MAT 035	MAT 045Q/ MAT 143	MAT 045S/ MAT 152	MAT 035
Tier 2 complete	MAT 110	MAT 045A/ MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 045P/ MAT 171
Tier 3 complete	MAT 110	MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 171

### Placement into ENG Courses Via Developmental Coursework

Student has credit for (C or better):	ENG Placement
ENG 025	ENG 111
ENG 045	ENG 111

### Placement into MAT Courses Via Developmental Coursework

Student has credit (C or better) for:	Desired course				
	MAT 110	MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 171
MAT 025	MAT 110	MAT 035	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 035
MAT 035	MAT 110	MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 171

MAT 045	MAT 110	MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 171
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### Recommended Placement into Math Courses Via College Math Credits

Student has credit for:	Desired course				
	MAT 110	MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 171
MAT 110	---	MAT 035	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 035
MAT 121	MAT 110	---	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 171
MAT 143	MAT 110	MAT 035	---	MAT 152	MAT 035
MAT 152	MAT 110	MAT 035	MAT 143	---	MAT 035
MAT 171	MAT 110	MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	---

## Placements in Grid Format

This section restates the placement information on pages 2 through 5 in tables, first for MAT classes and then for ENG classes.

### Placement into Math Courses Via HS GPA

Incoming HS GPA	Desired course				
	MAT 110	MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 171
2.8 and above	MAT 110	MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 171
2.2 - 2.799	MAT 110	MAT 045A/ MAT 121	MAT 045Q/ MAT 143	MAT 045S/ MAT 152	MAT 045P/ MAT 171
< 2.2	MAT 110	MAT 035	MAT 025	MAT 025	MAT 035

### Placement into Math Courses Via ACT Scores

ACT Score	Desired course				
	MAT 110	MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 171
MATH 22 or higher	MAT 110	MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 171
MATH 20-21	MAT 110	MAT 045A/ MAT 121	MAT 045Q/ MAT 143	MAT 045S/ MAT 152	MAT 045P/ MAT 171
MATH 19 or lower	MAT 110	MAT 035	MAT 025	MAT 025	MAT 035

Note: MATH 27 or higher with a C or higher in NC Standard Course of Study Precalculus places students into MAT 271

### Placement into Math Courses Via SAT (Post-March 2016) Scores

SAT Score	Desired course				
	MAT 110	MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 171
530 or higher	MAT 110	MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 171
529 or lower	MAT 110	MAT 035	MAT 025	MAT 025	MAT 035

Note: 600 or higher with a C or higher in NC Standard Course of Study Precalculus places students into MAT 271

**Placement into Math Courses Via GED Scores**

GED Score	Desired course				
	MAT 110	MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 171
165 or higher on all four subject tests	MAT 110	MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 171
All subject tests higher than 144; at least one lower than 165	MAT 110	MAT 045A/MAT 121	MAT 045Q/MAT 143	MAT 045S/MAT 152	MAT 045P/MAT 171
144 or lower on any of the four subject tests	MAT 110	MAT 035	MAT 025	MAT 025	MAT 035

**Placement into Math Courses Via HiSET Scores**

HiSET Score	Desired course				
	MAT 110	MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 171
15 or higher on all five subject tests and 4 or higher on the essay	MAT 110	MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 171
14 or lower on any of the five subject tests or 3 or lower on the essay	MAT 110	MAT 035	MAT 025	MAT 025	MAT 035

**Placement into Math Courses Via CCRG Grade**

Min CCRG Math Grade	Desired course				
	MAT 110	MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 171
A	MAT 110	MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 171
B	MAT 110	MAT 045A/MAT 121	MAT 143	MAT 152	MAT 045P/MAT 171
C	MAT 110	MAT 035	MAT 045Q/MAT 143	MAT 045S/MAT 152	MAT 035

**Placement into ENG Courses Via HS GPA**

Incoming HS GPA	ENG Placement
2.8 and above	ENG 111
2.2 - 2.799	ENG 111/ENG 045
< 2.2	ENG 025

**Placement into ENG Courses Via ACT Scores**

ACT Score	ENG Placement
ENG 18 or higher OR READ 22 or higher	ENG 111
ENG 16-17 OR READ 20-21	ENG 045/ENG 111
ENG 15 or lower OR READ 19 or lower	ENG 025

**Placement into ENG Courses Via SAT (Post-March 2016)  
Scores**

SAT Score	ENG Placement
480 or higher	ENG 111
479 or lower	ENG 025

**Placement into ENG Courses Via GED Scores**

GED Score	ENG Placement
165 or higher on all four subject tests	ENG 111
All subject tests higher than 144; at least one lower than 165	ENG 045/ENG 111
144 or lower on any subject test	ENG 025

**Placement into ENG Courses Via HiSET Scores**

HiSET Score	ENG Placement
15 or higher on all five subject tests and 4 or higher on the essay	ENG 111
14 or lower on any of the five subject tests or 3 or lower on the essay	ENG 025

**Placement into ENG Courses Via CCRG Grade**

CCRG English Grade	ENG Placement
A	ENG 111
B	ENG 045/ENG 111
C	ENG 025

**Additional Course Placement Information**

For additional support in placement and advising, please contact any of the following college personnel (919-536-7200):

Admissions and Advising Office	ext. 7205
Testing Center	ext. 1109
Vernon Bridges, Developmental Math Chair	ext. 8077
Zac Beckstrom, Mathematics Chair	ext. 8027
Janel Thompson, English Chair	ext. 8028
Robbi Muckenfuss, Developmental English Chair	ext. 8084