



## COMPASS Test – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Want to know more about the COMPASS Test? Review the frequently asked questions below. If you need more information contact the Testing Office at 912. 358.4487 or email at [testing@savannahstate.edu](mailto:testing@savannahstate.edu) or the Office of Admissions at 912.358.4338 or email at [admissions@savannahstate.edu](mailto:admissions@savannahstate.edu) ).

- 1. What is the COMPASS Test?** The COMPASS (COMputer-adaptive Placement Assessment and Support Services) is an admission/placement tool designed to measure your current skills in reading, writing and math (algebra). Throughout the test, the COMPASS program will adapt to your abilities. The questions will increase or decrease in difficulty based on your previous answers.
- 2. How will I know if I need to take the COMPASS Test?** You must first complete an application for admission to SSU. The Office of Admission will review your application and determine whether or not you need COMPASS. You will receive written notice from the Office of Admission or may check the online [application status](#) at [www.savannahstate.edu](http://www.savannahstate.edu) (under *prospective students*). Not all students need or will be approved to test.
- 3. Why do I need to take the COMPASS Test?** If you did not meet the minimum requirements for freshmen admission to SSU, you may be required to take the test. See some of the requirements below—for more information, contact the Office of Admissions.
  - SAT (Minimum score 430 critical reading and 400 math)
  - ACT (Minimum score 17 English, 17 math, and 17 composite)
  - College prep GPA of at least 2.3
  - Freshman index of 1940
  - 16 College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) units (4 English courses; 4 math courses; 3 sciences; 3 social sciences; 2 years of the same foreign language) — **for students graduating high school prior to 2012**
  - 17 Required High School Curriculum (RHSC) units (4 English courses; 4 math courses; 4 sciences; 3 social sciences; 2 years of the same foreign language) — **for students graduating high school in 2012 or later**
- 4. How do I exempt the test?** You may be exempt or not need the COMPASS if:
  - a. You have met the minimum freshmen requirements as listed under FAQ #3; or
  - b. You are transferring college-level English and Math courses with a grade of "C" or higher; or
  - c. You have completed required developmental coursework (Learning Support) at another University System of Georgia college or university.

**For more information, contact the Office of Admission at 912.358.4487; transfer students contact the Transfer Evaluator in the Registrar's Office at 912.358.4153.**
- 5. Who should I contact to take the COMPASS test?** You must contact the Testing Office to take the COMPASS Test at 912. 358.4487 or [testing@savannahstate.edu](mailto:testing@savannahstate.edu) or [REGISTER ONLINE](#).
- 6. What should I bring with me to the test?** You must have valid photo identification (current driver's license, passport, current school ID). You may bring a calculator if taking the math section of the test. Some remote sites may require you to use the online, built-in calculator—either one is fine.
- 7. What kinds of questions will be asked on the COMPASS?** (1) The COMPASS [Reading Test](#) measures reading comprehension. (2) The COMPASS [Writing Test](#) measures usage/mechanics (punctuation, basic grammar, word usage, and sentence structure) and rhetorical skills (strategy, organization, and style in effective writing). (3) The COMPASS [Mathematics \(Algebra\) Test](#) includes multiple choice items in algebra which test you on basic skills (performing a sequence of basic operations); application (applying sequences of basic operations to novel settings or in complex ways); and analysis (demonstrating conceptual understanding of principles and relationships in mathematical operations).

8. **How can I prepare for the COMPASS?** You can visit the official COMPASS [website](#) to see sample questions. You may also view other websites which assist you in preparing for the skills in which you will need to be successful on the test: [www.savannahstate.edu/testing](http://www.savannahstate.edu/testing) (click on Test Preparation & Strategies); or visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and enter key skills you may need to refresh and receive an independent audio/visual learning environment.
9. **How long does it take to complete the COMPASS test?** The test is untimed. On average, each section of the test takes approximately 1 hour to complete; if you take all three sections, you may test approximately three (3) hours—more or less. Also note that once you choose an answer and move on to the next item, you cannot go back. Therefore, it is important that you read the directions, take your time, and do your best on the test. Your score results will determine acceptance or denial to the University.
10. **Can I use a calculator for the Math section of the COMPASS Placement Test?** Yes. You may also use the online built-in calculator on the COMPASS test. *At the discretion of the institution*, students also may use their own calculators as long as they meet the [calculator-use guidelines](#) specified by ACT.
11. **Do I need computer skills?** COMPASS is very user friendly and was designed for those with little or no computer experience. You need only basic computer skills (typing and use of a mouse) to complete the test.
12. **When should I take the COMPASS Test?** NOW! This may allow you to receive an update on your application status and possibly confirm your acceptance to the University sooner. Once accepted to the University you may continue to move forward with other enrollment processes: financial aid; housing; new student orientation; course registration, etc.
13. **When are my results uploaded to the student information system?** Scores are generally posted within 24 -48 hours. During heavy testing periods, scores may be posted more frequently.
14. **Do you accept COMPASS scores from other colleges?** Yes. COMPASS scores within the last five years may be considered with your application for acceptance. Official test results, sealed in an envelope from other colleges may be forwarded directly to the Office of Admissions along with your application for admission. If you have already submitted an application and did not include your COMPASS scores, you may forward scores to the Testing Office.
- ATTN: Testing Office**  
Savannah State University  
3219 College Street  
Box 40284  
Savannah, Georgia 31404
15. **Will other colleges and universities accept my COMPASS scores from SSU?** Yes, institutions that require the COMPASS may accept your test scores. Please consult those respective colleges and universities for more information.
16. **Is there a fee to take the placement test?** There is no charge for a student's first COMPASS test; however, all retests at SSU will cost a nonrefundable fee of \$10. The retest fee at remote test centers may vary.
17. **When will I get the results of my test?** You should receive a copy of your results immediately after testing. If you test at a remote test site and do not receive your scores, please contact the Testing Office at 912.358.4487 or email at [testing@savannahstate.edu](mailto:testing@savannahstate.edu). The Testing Office will not discuss specific scores on the phone, but will forward a copy of your scores and advise you of your need to retest, if necessary.
18. **What are the minimum passing scores required for the COMPASS?** The minimum passing scores for the Math (Algebra) is 37; reading is 74; and writing is a 60.

19. **Can I retake the test if I do not make the minimum scores?** Yes. Students wishing to retest must get permission to retest at SSU and pay a non-refundable retest fee of \$10. Contact the Testing Office at 912.358.4487 or email a request at [testing@savannahstate.edu](mailto:testing@savannahstate.edu). If testing at a remote test center, please consult the institutions' retest fee information.
20. **If I get a low score on the COMPASS test, will SSU deny my admission?** It is possible to be denied admission to SSU if you do not score well on the test. Therefore, we encourage you to prepare well for this test. You may utilize any available resource you may have (family, friends, a tutor, etc.) to refresh your skills in the areas needed. You may also access a few of the websites listed on our website: [www.savannahstate.edu/testing](http://www.savannahstate.edu/testing) (click *Test Preparation* in the bottom left of the page).
21. **Who do I notify if I have a disability that requires special arrangements to take the placement test?** Please contact Disability Services at 912.358.3115 as soon as possible if you would like to request accommodations when taking the COMPASS test. Please prepare to submit appropriate documentation.
22. **Is COMPASS test reservation/or appointment needed?** Yes. Testing is based on confirmed reservations through the Testing Office. This information may vary if testing at an approved remote test center.
23. **What is an acceptable photo identification to take the test?** Valid driver's license, passport, or school photo ID.
24. **Can I take the COMPASS test if I live outside of the Savannah area?** Yes, to save on the expense of travel to and from Savannah, we encourage you to test at an approved remote test center near you. You must contact the Testing Office at [testing@savannahstate.edu](mailto:testing@savannahstate.edu) to set-up arrangements and to get a remote COMPASS test registration number prior to testing. This service is offered only to those seeking acceptance to SSU.
25. **What is a "remote test" or remote test center?"** The testing office may provide permission for you to test at a location near your home area--if you live more than 100 miles from the Savannah area. A remote test center is an approved test center in which you may take the COMPASS. **You must receive a "remote test registration number"** from the SSU Testing Office prior to your test.
26. **Why is it important to have a COMPASS remote "test registration number" when testing at a location other than SSU?** The COMPASS remote test registration number signifies that you have permission to take the COMPASS for SSU at a remote test center. You must use this number when scheduling a test session. On the day of testing you will use the "test registration number" to log into the electronic test that is set-up *specifically* for you. Using the "test registration number" also allows your score results to be sent automatically to SSU without the use of mail or fax.
27. **Can I take the COMPASS test at SSU if I plan to attend another college (not SSU)?** Yes. If you have applied for another institution and have permission to take the test at SSU you will be tested for a fee; [REGISTER ONLINE](#) or email [testing@savannahstate.edu](mailto:testing@savannahstate.edu). Your institution may submit to the Testing Office, an official letter, email or "remote test registration number" permitting you to test at SSU.