COMPASS ASSESSMENT
GUIDING YOU TO SUCCESS


COMPASS is a computerized assessment that provides important information about individual skills and preparation for college-level courses. It is an untimed, adaptive computer-based test that measures skills in reading, writing, and mathematics.

COMPASS is given to students to help meet prerequisites so they may register for classes. Though COMPASS is not judged as pass or fail, the results are used to place the student in appropriate classes.

COMPASS is a free service to Bay College students.

Do I Have to Take COMPASS?

Yes... unless an exemption applies:

• Those with ACT scores of 18 in English AND 18 in reading that are not more than three years old are exempt from COMPASS testing in English and reading. Those students with ACT scores of 20 or higher in math that are not more than three years old are exempt from COMPASS testing in math.

• Those with a minimum grade of “C” in the equivalent of a college-level freshmen composition course and an intermediate algebra or higher course, based on official documentation. This would include appropriate scores on CLEP and AP courses.
• Those with transfer credits in a college level composition course will be exempt from the English (writing) and reading portions of the assessment. Those with documented transfer credit in intermediate algebra or higher will be exempt from the math portion of the assessment. Send official transcripts to Bay College Admissions.

• Those with a completed Michigan Uniform Guest Application for the current semester.

• Those enrolling ONLY in courses with no prerequisites as printed in the Bay College catalog.

• Those taking non-credit courses, courses for Continuing Education Units (CEU), or those auditing a course.

Additional

• ALL students pursuing a degree in nursing will be required to complete the full COMPASS assessment unless ACT scores (taken within last 3 years) meet minimums.

• Students may take each portion (reading, writing, and/or mathematics) two times every 365 days.

• Special testing accommodations can be provided for students with documented disabilities, upon request.

COMPASS assesses reading, writing, and math skills.

The assessment consists of 3 components: reading, writing, and math. On the reading test, you will read one or more passages, and then answer questions about the passages. On the writing test, you will identify and correct errors in grammar, punctuation, usage and style in one or more essays. On the mathematics test, you will solve problems that measure algebra skills. The topics included on this test are elementary algebra, intermediate algebra and coordinate geometry.

Preparation can save you time and money.

While the COMPASS Assessment does not determine if you are admitted to Bay College, it does determine whether or not you can take college-level courses, or if you need to complete developmental courses before taking college-level coursework. Preparing yourself for the COMPASS Assessment, by reviewing and taking practice tests, can save you time and money.

COMPASS scores are used for placement in English and mathematics and to document reading proficiency. Admitted students whose scores indicate need for preparation for college-level courses will enroll in Transitional sections of English, reading, and mathematics.
Study. Your scores count.

The best place to start:  http://www.act.org/compass/sample/index.html

Also very helpful is the Bay College Library link to Compass resources:  http://library.baycollege.edu/testing/compass

**Reading and Writing Preparation:**

**Reading:** Five types of reading comprehension passages are included: practical reading, social sciences, prose fiction, natural sciences and humanities. Items have multiple-choice response options. The format in COMPASS makes it possible for testers to see and read a passage on one side of the screen while the test questions and answer choices are displayed on the other half of the screen. The tester may read the passage as many times as needed and take as long as necessary before moving on to the next reading passage. The reading diagnostic section includes reading comprehension, vocabulary, and reader profile components.

**Writing:** In the writing portion, examinees are presented with an essay and are asked to look for errors in grammar, punctuation, usage, and style. When examinees find what they believe to be errors, they move the mouse pointer to the appropriate part of the text and click the mouse. On the right side of the screen five options appear for revising that area of text. Note that the first option is always identical to the original wording in the text, and thus represents a NO CHANGE option. Examinees can choose to revise any section of the essay. After revising the essay, examinees are routed to two items focusing on rhetorical strategies. Examinees are advised to read EVERY sentence or phrase in the essay and determine the best answer for each.

*Online reading and writing study resources:*

https://faculty.ung.edu/mrhorton/lsenglish

http://owl.english.purdue.edu

*Personalized Compass preparation sessions are available. Please contact Erica Mead, Literacy Specialist & TRiO Mentor, for an appointment: 906-217-4135 or meade@baycollege.edu. (This service is not available to Dual Enrollment students.)*

**Math Preparation:**

Multiple-choice items in each of the five mathematics placement areas test the following:

- basic skills—performing a sequence of basic operations
- application—applying sequences of basic operations to novel settings or in complex ways
- analysis—demonstrating conceptual understanding of principles and relationships in mathematical operations

Students are advised to review the following areas: fractions, percentages, decimals, exponents, factoring, graphing, averages, ratios, proportions, polynomials and linear equations. Testers are permitted to use calculators when completing the COMPASS mathematics placement tests. Bay College will provide you with a scientific calculator to use during the assessment. Mobile devices and graphic calculators are prohibited.

*Online math study resources:*

http://www.hippocampus.org
Schedule your COMPASS today.

To take the COMPASS assessment, you must have a Bay College ID number, which is assigned upon application to Bay College.

**Escanaba Campus**

Appointments: 906-217-4010

**West Campus – Iron Mountain**

Appointments: 906-302-3200

What to bring with you to your appointment:

- A photo I.D.
- Calculators will be provided. Mobile devices and graphing calculators are prohibited in the testing areas.