

# **REMEDIAL NEEDS AND CO-REQUISITE COURSES AT CUNY**

## **WHAT ARE CO-REQUISITE COURSES, AND HOW DOES CUNY DECIDE WHO NEEDS TO TAKE THEM?**

If CUNY decides that you need additional preparation in Reading, Writing, or Math before enrolling in college-level courses, you may be assigned to take a certain number of co-requisite courses. Co-requisite courses are credit-bearing courses that include extra instructional hours to help you catch up with college-level standards. They are called co-requisite because they **allow you to fulfill your remedial needs and earn credit at the same time.**

Previously, CUNY made students who needed extra preparation for college take “remedial” classes that were worth zero college credits before allowing them to take credit-bearing classes; remedial classes have been fully phased out as of Fall 2022. SUNY schools and other colleges still require students who don’t “place out” to take remedial classes. **We highly recommend that students who plan to attend 2-year colleges attend CUNY rather than SUNY, as research shows that students do far better taking co-requisite courses than remedial courses.**

In the past, many students who entered CUNY took the **CUNY Assessment Test** to “place out” of their developmental needs. However, the CUNY Assessment Test has been discontinued, and **CUNY now uses a formula** that looks at your grades and test scores to determine whether you need co-requisite classes.

The best way to place out of having to put in the extra hours in co-requisite classes is to use your Regents Exam scores from high school as described on the following page. This is particularly important if you want to attend a four-year college, as most four-year programs require you to resolve any developmental needs before attending unless you are in the SEEK program (if you can’t attend a 4-year college because of this, you can always start at a 2-year).

## **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU APPLY TO CUNY:**

### **Students can place out of co-requisite courses by getting good scores on Regents Exams or SATs!**

You place out of Reading and Writing co-requisites by posting any of the following scores:

- SAT Reading + Writing Score of 480 or better (or ACT English of 20+)
- English Regents score of 75 or better

You can place out of Math by posting any of the following scores:

- SAT Math Score of 530 or higher (or ACT Math of 21+)
- 70 in Common Core Algebra or Geometry. 65 in Algebra II/Trigonometry.

**If you are transferring to CUNY from another school**, you can also place out by passing a college-level, credit-bearing course in the corresponding subject (i.e. passing a 3-credit English 101 class would place you out of Reading and Writing).

**If you want to avoid having to take co-requisite classes at CUNY, the best thing you can do is to make sure that your Regents scores are high enough to place out.** This means retaking the Regents exam until you have a 75 or above in English, and a 70 in Common Core Algebra or Geometry (or a 65 in Algebra II or Trigonometry).

**If you do not have test scores or prior college credit that can help you place out of co-requisite courses**, then CUNY will use an algorithm that considers your grades and test scores and decides whether you are ready to take regular introductory courses or need to take co-requisite classes. CUNY's decision about your placement will be available on your CUNYFirst account after you complete your application.

**CUNY has not released the formula it uses to decide who needs co-requisite classes, but the higher your grades and test scores are, the more likely that you will *not* have to take co-requisite classes.**

If you do not have a GPA (for instance, because you graduated with a **high school equivalency**), the algorithm will probably place you into co-requisite classes, but if you feel you are ready for regular introductory-level college classes, college advisors should accept additional evidence from you (for instance, your TASC scores) and can make a determination themselves about whether you need to take remedials. If are in this position, you should call the admissions and/or registrar's office of the college you would like to attend and ask them what other information you can provide to place out of co-requisite classes.

More information on CUNY's proficiency requirements is available [on their website](#).