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.