

PLACING OUT OF REMEDIAL COURSES AT CUNY

WHAT ARE REMEDIAL 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 developmental or remedial courses first.

These classes usually meet more often than a regular college course, and do not give you college credit – instead, remedial classes qualify you to take classes for credit once you complete them. Many students have succeeded in college after needing to take remedial classes, but it is a good idea to try to place out of them if you can.

In the past, many students who entered CUNY took the **CUNY Assessment Test** to “place out” of their remedial classes. 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 remedial classes.

The best way to place out of remedial classes is to use your Regents Exam scores from high school as described on the following page.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU APPLY TO CUNY:

Students can place out of remedial courses by getting good scores on Regents Exams or SATs*!

You place out of Reading and Writing remedials 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.

***For Fall 2021 and Spring 2022, CUNY will not be considering students' SAT scores for proficiency determinations, which means students cannot place out of remedial classes with SAT scores until Fall 2022.**

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 are concerned about having to take remedial 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 remedial courses, then CUNY will use an algorithm that considers your grades and test scores and decides whether you are ready to take credit-bearing courses or need to take remedials 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 remedial classes, but the higher your grades and test scores are, the more likely that you will *not* have to take remedial 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 remedial classes, but if you feel you are ready for credit-bearing 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 remedial classes.

WHAT IF I DON'T PLACE OUT OF REMEDIAL COURSES? WILL I STILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND COLLEGE?

CUNY's placement decision will determine whether or not you can enroll in credit-bearing courses directly, or if you must first take non-credit courses (remedial courses) in reading, writing, math, or ESL. ***You will still be able to attend college!***

CUNY has several different types of supports available to students who need improvement in certain areas with the goal of getting students ready for credit-bearing classes. (See overview in [Appendix G9_CUNY Support and Opportunity Programs](#).) These supports include **CUNY Start** and **Math Start**, pre-college programs that allow students to place out of remedials without having to use up their financial aid. In addition, some colleges offer **co-requisite courses**, which are credit-bearing classes that allow students to satisfy their remedial requirements at the same time.

Guttman Community College, in particular, does not offer non-credit remedial courses – only co-requisite classes, making it a great destination for students with remedial needs. However, attending Guttman requires more advance planning than the other community colleges: students interested in Guttman will need to make sure to apply before February 1 and carefully follow the steps in their admissions process, including coming in for an in-person interview.

I HAVE REMEDIAL NEEDS, NOW WHAT?

Don't stress, you can still enroll and be successful in college:

- If you have two or more remedial needs: join [CUNY Start!](#)
- If you have one or fewer remedial needs: join the [ASAP program](#) as a “fully-matriculated” student.
- The [College Discovery \(CD\)](#) program at community colleges will accept students with any number of remedial needs.

You can still go to a four-year college, but you must place or test out of all remedial needs before starting unless you are in the SEEK program!