



Placement Test Preparation

All new international students will take two placement tests (Mathematics and ESL-English as a Second Language) when they arrive to study at San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley. These are diagnostic tests designed to measure skills and are used to determine which course level the student qualifies to enroll.

Important Tips:

1. **Prepare Tor This Test** – it is important and can determine the length of your program of study
2. **Take Your Time** – there is no time limit, so relax and take as long as you need to complete them
3. **You Can Not Pass or Fail This Test** – this test is used only to determine course level
4. **Two Times** – students are allowed to ‘retake’ the placement test one additional time only
5. **ESL Test** – there are three sections: Reading, Listening, and Grammar*

*The grammar ESL test is the most important and determines your placement for the ESL-English course sequence.

How to Prepare:

Cañada College: <http://canadacollege.edu/assessment/prepare.php>

College of San Mateo: <http://collegeofsanmateo.edu/testing/sampletests.asp>
<http://collegeofsanmateo.edu/pep/preparing.asp>

Skyline College: <http://www.skylinecollege.edu/placement/practicequestions.php>

Student will be taking the Placement Tests as part of their college New International Student Orientation (be sure you have confirmed your attendance). Placement tests are computerized and the math placement is adaptive. The results are made available immediately at the conclusion of each test. No phones or devices are allowed during the placement testing. Students must be prepared to show their passport upon arrival for testing.





Important Immigration Documents



Your immigration documents are proof that you are allowed to enter and stay in the U.S. as a student. You should keep your immigration documents in a safe place and make copies just in case you lose your originals.

Passport

Your passport must be valid at least 6 months into the future at all times. Make sure that you renew your passport before it expires at your home country's Embassy or Consulate located in the U.S.

F-1 Student Visa

Visas are only issued at U.S. embassies/consulates outside of the U.S. The F-1 visa stamp in your passport must be valid when entering the U.S. It is proof that you may enter the U.S. as a student. Canadian citizens do not need an F-1 visa stamp, but do need the I-20 certificate to enter as a student.



I-20 Certificate of Eligibility for F-1 Status

Your I-20 is proof that you have been accepted into a program of study in the U.S. Your I-20 must reflect your current program of study and must be valid at all times. If your I-20 is expiring and you will not complete your program before the program end date, you will need to request an extension before it expires.

Form I-94 Arrival/Departure Record

The Form I-94 is an electronic record that shows your Arrival/Departure information. Your Form I-94 record is proof that you have been granted entry into the U.S. on an F-1 visa to study at the school listed on your current I-20. U.S. Customs and Border Protection will provide each traveler with an admission stamp in his/her passport that shows the date of admission, class of admission and admitted until date. Your I-94 information may be accessed online:

<https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/consent.html>

KEEP ALL IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS IN A SAFE PLACE