Fall 2016 Placement Exam Information

Placement Exams - Sciences

Physics
Saturday, August 20 • 4:00pm • 230 Rockefeller Hall • CD4
These examinations are for students who have not taken the CEEB advanced placement examination in physics, but who have had other instruction in college-level physics that does not automatically qualify for credit at Cornell. Arts and Sciences or Engineering students who have taken physics at a two-year community college should take this test, as should some students from outside the United States who are unsure about the transfer of credits. These tests establish advanced-standing equivalent to the following: PHYS 1101, 1102, 1112, 2213, 2207, and 2208. Sequence pairs of tests may be taken (e.g., for PHYS 1101 and 1102). Allow 2.5 hours. See www.physics.cornell.edu/undergraduate/advanced-standing-exams/ for more information. To see if you are eligible to take one of these tests or if you have questions, contact the Physics Director of Undergraduate Studies at physicsdus@cornell.edu. These examinations are offered once each year.

Chemistry and Chemical Biology
Saturday, August 20 • 4:00pm • 135 Baker Laboratory • CHEM 2070 (2090) • CD3
Sunday, August 21 • 8:00am • 135 Baker Laboratory • CHEM 2080 • CD3
Two examinations are given, one each for CHEM 2070 (2090) and 2080. Take one or both of these exams if you studied in high school outside of the United States or if you believe you deserve higher placement than the results of the AP exam indicated. Students who have not had the equivalent of a college-level chemistry course are discouraged from taking these examinations (Regents, CBA, and CHEM programs are not considered college level).

Allow two hours for each examination. Bring a nongraphing, nonprogrammable scientific calculator with log and exponential functions and several #2 pencils with erasers.

Computer Science
Sunday, August 21 • 12:30pm • G01 Gates Hall • D6
Take this exam if you have a working knowledge of object-oriented programming in Java, C++, or Python and did not take the CEEB, IB, or GCE exam, or if you took the CEEB Advanced Placement A exam in computer science but did not score high enough to receive credit for CS 1110. Recommendations will be made for placement in the appropriate computer science course based on exam performance. Advance registration is not necessary. Allow 2.5 hours for the exam.

Mathematics
Sunday, August 21 • 10:15am • Bache Auditorium, 228 Malott Hall • D4
This optional placement exam is recommended for students who have had at least a semester of calculus but did not take a CEEB, GCE, or IB exam; students who took such an exam but believe their placement is incorrect; and students who feel that their grasp of the material is uncertain. A passing score may be used to place out of Calculus I (MATH 1110) and/or Calculus II (MATH 1120), while a failing score has no impact on the student’s record. Advance registration is not necessary. Bring several pencils. Allow two hours. No make-up exam will be given. There is no placement test for linear algebra or multivariable calculus. There is no spring placement exam. Note: this exam is NOT the Engineering Mathematics Advanced Standing Exam. (See your college section for more information.)
Placement Exams – Foreign Languages
These examinations are for students who wish to continue a language studied in high school. You must take this placement examination if you have more than one year of study in the language and do not have an SAT II or AP score in that language. For specific information on individual language exams (basic placement exams, advanced standing or CASE exams, schedules, locations, and makeup exams), please consult the websites listed below.

African Languages (Swahili and Yoruba): Any student wishing to sign up for an African language placement test should contact the Africana Studies and Research Center at 607.255.4625, email africana@cornell.edu, or visit africana.cornell.edu.

Arabic: Any student wishing to sign up for the Arabic placement exam should contact Munther Younes, director of the Arabic language program, by calling 607.255.6275 or by email at may2@cornell.edu.

Asian Languages (Bengali, Burmese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Mandarin, Nepali, Sanskrit, Sinhala, Tagalog, Thai, Urdu, and Vietnamese): Any student wishing to take an Asian language placement exam should visit the Asian studies department website at lrc.cornell.edu/asian/programs/placement.

Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian and Ukrainian: If you are interested in these languages, please consult Professor Browne by email at ewb2@cornell.edu or call Callean Hile at 607.255.8222.

Czech, Hungarian, and Polish: If you have questions about placement in any of these three languages, please contact Callean Hile at 607.255.8222 or by email at clh2@cornell.edu.

German: The German basic placement and CASE exams are scheduled for Saturday, August 20, at 3:00pm in G22 and G24 Goldwin Smith Hall, respectively. Both a makeup German basic placement and CASE exam will be given on Wednesday, August 31, at 7:00pm in G22 and G24 Goldwin Smith Hall, respectively. Please contact Gunhild Lischke at gl15@cornell.edu or 607.255.0725 if you have questions.

Greek, Ancient: The placement test is scheduled for Saturday, August 20, at 3:00pm in 142 Goldwin Smith Hall. You will need to know your Cornell ID number to receive your results, which will be posted on the bulletin board outside the Department of Classics. If you have questions, please call Linda Brown at 607.255.3354 or email her at lmb296@cornell.edu.

Hebrew: For the Hebrew placement exam, you may sign up at 409 White Hall, by calling 607.255.6275, or by sending an email to Nava Scharf, Hebrew language coordinator, at ns21@cornell.edu.

Latin: The Latin placement test is scheduled for Saturday, August 20, at 3:00pm in 142 Goldwin Smith Hall. You will need to know your Cornell ID number to receive your results, which will be posted on the bulletin board outside the Department of Classics. Please call Linda Brown if you have any questions at 607.255.3354 or email her at lmb296@cornell.edu.

Persian: Any student wishing to sign up for a Persian language placement exam should contact Iago Gocheleishvili, Persian language coordinator, by calling 607.255.6467 or emailing ig44@cornell.edu.
Romance Languages (French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish):
Visit romancestudies.cornell.edu/undergraduate/testing.

Russian: The Russian placement exam (also called Russian CASE) is given in the fall and spring semesters, usually two or three days before the first day of classes. The fall Russian placement exam is scheduled for Saturday, August 20, at 3:00pm in 102 Morrill Hall. Detailed information is posted a few weeks in advance under Current Announcements at russian.cornell.edu.

Turkish: Any student wishing to sign up for a Turkish language placement exam should contact the Near Eastern Studies Department by calling 607.255.6275.

For any of the above tests with scheduled dates and times, you do not need to sign up in advance. For all placement tests, bring a sharpened #2 pencil and an eraser. For the test, you will need to know your Social Security Number and your Cornell ID number. Be sure to arrive at least five minutes before the exam.

Q&A

Why placement examinations?
Placement examinations are administered to determine a new student’s appropriate level of study within a discipline. On the basis of your performance on an examination, you may be placed in the subject’s introductory course; be exempted from the introductory course and be allowed to take a more advanced course; or be exempted from the introductory course, receive credit for that course, and be allowed to take a more advanced course. Grades on advanced standing examinations do not become part of your university record.

Do I have to take an exam?
Some of the examinations may be required by your college. Check the materials sent to you by your college and the college orientation section of this booklet for more details. Consult Courses of Study (courses.cornell.edu) and information from your college regarding credits awarded on the basis of your exam scores and descriptions of the courses you may be exempted from and placed into.

What about students with disabilities?
Students who wish to receive testing accommodation for placement exams due to a disability must contact Student Disability Services (SDS) prior to taking a placement exam. Disability documentation is required to receive academic accommodation. Contact SDS by calling 607.254.4545, emailing sds_cu@cornell.edu, or visiting the office at 420 Computing and Communications Center (CCC).

What about ESL (English as a Second Language) students?
Contact the Writing Workshop at 607.255.6349 if you are an ESL student who needs help with your writing.