Details About Compass

Reading

The reading passages are written at a reading level comparable to what you would experience in your first year of college (13th grade level). There are four different types of passages that you may be required to read. The genres include fiction, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. There are five comprehension questions for every passage. You can see the passage while you are answering the questions, and can reread the passage as many times as needed.

Writing

The writing exam requires you to edit an essay. Carefully read the essay looking for errors in punctuation, grammar, and style. It is important to note that you need to provide an answer for every phrase in the passage, not just those that contain an error.

Pre-Algebra

The pre-algebra exam requires you to answer multiple-choice questions on a variety of topics. Scratch paper and pencil will be provided. Please remember the COMPASS is untimed and there is no need to rush. The exam includes the following topics:

- Operations with Integers
- Operations with Fractions
- Operations with Decimals
- Conversions between Decimals and Fractions
- Order of Operations
- Positive Integer Exponents
- Square Roots
- Scientific Notation
- Ratios & Proportions
- Percentages
- Mean, Median, & Mode
Algebra

The Algebra exam requires you to answer multiple-choice questions on a variety of topics. A calculator, scratch paper and pencil will be provided. Please remember the COMPASS is untimed and there is no need to rush. The algebra exam includes the following topics.

- Substituting Values into Algebraic Expressions
- Creating Algebraic Equations for Practical Problems
- Linear Equations—1 Variable
- Linear Equations—2 Variables
- Slopes
- Exponents
- Basic Operations with Polynomials
- Factoring Polynomials
- Radicals