

COMPASS TUTORIAL

(TEXT VERSION)

SCREEN 1 - *Image of MECC logo*

“Welcome”

SCREEN 2 - *Image of Speaker volume knobs*

“This presentation has audio. Please turn on your speakers”

VO: This presentation has audio. Please turn on your speakers.

SCREEN 3 - *Image of Printer*

“... If you wish a print form of the audio, it is available on a link below this presentation.”

VO cont: If you wish a print form of the audio, it is available on a link below this presentation.

SCREEN 4 - *Image of college campus buildings*

“Welcome to a brief presentation about Mountain Empire Community College’s skills assessment for incoming students.”

VO: Welcome to a brief presentation about Mountain Empire Community College’s skills assessment for incoming students. And congratulations. You are taking an important step on your way to building a better future.

SCREEN 5 - *Image of Thirty-something smiling female*

“The ACT/COMPASS Skills Assessment”

VO: This presentation will explain what the ACT/COMPASS Skills Assessment is and what it means to you. It will offer some helpful tips to make your experience -a positive one.

SCREEN 6 – *Looking down on three students faces*

“Why do I have to take a skills assessment?”

VO: “Starting college can be a frightening experience. And having to take a test right away can add to the stress. We at the college want you to know we are here to help you succeed. But we won’t be able to help you if we don’t know what your entering skills are. Once we know where you are now, we will be able to work together as partners to help you accomplish your college and life goals.”

SCREEN 7 – *Open door and two windows against sky*

“MECC is an open access school, so?”

VO: MECC is **an** open access **school:** Open access means that all you need to enroll is a high school diploma, a GED, or the ability to benefit. But not every incoming student is at the college level in all skills. Consequently, we need to measure your current skill level in three areas needed for success in college: writing, reading, and math.

SCREEN 8 - *Image of student, arms wide open “*

“Oh, so you’re going to measure my writing, reading, and math skills?”

VO: Why measure your writing, reading, and math skills?

Well, the average age of MECC students is 30. Many have been out of school for some time and may just need a refresher course or two in order to be successful in college.

Many students weren’t in the college prep classes in high school, so they may not have had the intensive preparation they need in one or more of these areas.

Plus many students simply stopped taking math classes after their sophomore year, so they don’t remember their high school math skills.

SCREEN 9 - *Student with arms up.*

“So what does all this mean to me? (It’s a good thing!)”

VO: What does all this mean to you? We want to help you be successful in college. We don’t just want to admit you; we want to give you any transition or review classes you may need to ensure that you will be able to earn a “C” or better in all of your classes, no matter what your background has been.

SCREEN 10 - *Image of the opening screen of the ACT/COMPASS Skills Assessment*

“What is the ACT/COMPASS Skills Assessment? (and will it hurt?)”

VO: Let’s talk about the Assessment for a moment.

The ACT/COMPASS Skills Assessment is a web-based computer skills assessment containing three separate sections, one section each for writing, reading, and math...

SCREEN 11 - *Image of the pen on paper*

Writing Assessment:

Usage/Mechanics

- Punctuation
- Sentence structure
- Basic grammar and usage

Writing Skills

- Strategy
- Organization
- Style

VO: The Writing section will cover skills necessary to be successful in college-level writing: Usage and Mechanics, Punctuation, Sentence structure, Basic grammar and usage, Writing Strategies, Organization, and Style.

SCREEN 12 - *Image of the open book*

Reading Assessment

- Reading Comprehension on several types of college-level passages
- Vocabulary

VO - cont.: The Reading section will cover Reading Comprehension on several types of college-level passages, as well as college-level Vocabulary.

SCREEN 13 - *Image of the calculator and pencil and paper*

Math Assessment:

- **Basic Arithmetic**
- **Algebra**

VO - cont: And lastly, the Math Assessment section will cover Basic Arithmetic and Algebra only. More information on the arithmetic section is available the MECC website.

SCREEN 14 - *Image of student with a thumbs up.*

“This assessment isn’t for a grade, but...”

VO: This assessment isn’t for a grade. But understand it is important that you give it your best effort, because we use the results to help you and your advisor know what classes you should begin with in writing, reading, and math...

SCREEN 15 - *Student(s) studying in Library*

A little review can’t hurt!

VO: If you wish, you may do some review of these areas before you take the placement assessment. But don’t worry. You don’t have to remember everything from high school. If you don’t remember the important things necessary for college success, you will be taking classes which review them for you.

SCREEN 16 - *Image of female thirty-something student looking up at text.*

“We want you to succeed in college.”

VO: ... Remember: We want you to be a successful college student; that’s why we provide classes to help you bridge from your present skills to the skills needed for success in college. And you are in good company: over half of MECC graduates take advantage of one or more refresher courses.

SCREEN 17 - *African-American women who is looking helpful.*

“Tips and Strategies”

VO: Here are few useful tips and strategies that will help you have a better assessment experience.

SCREEN 18 - *Image of male student holding up a blank clock.*

“Take your time; get it right.”

VO: The ACT/COMPASS Skills Assessment is untimed, which means you don’t have to rush through it. You may take as long as you wish. Use your time to read over the questions carefully, to check your answers, and to be thorough.

SCREEN 19 - *Image of bare feet of student taking a break on the lawn.*

“Give me a break! (No really, take a break!)”

VO: Unless you are taking the assessments for ability to benefit, you may take breaks between sections. The entire assessment usually takes about two – three hours, so taking

breaks can help you do your best. Be sure to take the assessment on a day when you have plenty of time, so you can take breaks between sections if you want to.

SCREEN 20 - *Image of computer monitor and keyboard.*

“Read The Directions (Remember you have plenty of time!)”

VO: No really...READ ALL THE DIRECTIONS carefully. Many students don't do as well as they could on the assessment because they did not read and understand the directions. Don't skip them.

If you do get confused about the processes (not about a specific question), be sure to ask the Testing Coordinator to help you.

SCREEN 21 - *Image of open book.*

“Reading Section Tips”

VO: This section checks your reading comprehension and vocabulary. You will be given several passages to read, with questions next to the passage. Read the entire story, scroll up or down, re-read the passage as often as you need, check your answers, and, of course, take your time.

SCREEN 22 - *Image of a hand holding a pencil..*

“Writing Section Tips”

VO: On this section, you are looking for errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Or, you could be revising sections to make them sound more logical. Read the entire story first to get a feel for it. Then, click on each sentence, and you will see various ways to change the sentence. You will either have to leave the sentence as it is or choose one of the choices that makes the sentence more correct or more logical. Check the entire story, sentence by sentence.

SCREEN 23 - *Image of a page of math problems*

“Math Section Tips”

VO: Read the questions carefully. Don't panic on word problems. Just think them through step by step. You may use a calculator on the math section. There is a drop-down calculator on the computer screen (that can be viewed as a standard calculator or a scientific calculator)...or ask the Testing Coordinator to provide you a hand-held calculator. Sorry, but you may not use your personal calculator.

SCREEN 24 - *Image of student holding a bullhorn pointing.*

“Very brief review”

VO: Let's do a quick review:

The ACT/COMPASS Skills Assessment is a tool to help you learn where you are in writing, reading and math...and to help your advisor determine how best to get you to where you want to be in those important areas.

You won't get an A or F on this, but your future classes will be based on the results, so give it your best effort.

It is untimed, so you don't have to rush through it, and most of you can take breaks between sections.

Be sure to read and understand all the directions. Not following the directions is why a lot of people don't do as well as they could.

Did I mention not to rush and to give it your best effort? Outstanding.

SCREEN 25 - *Image of mortars thrown up in air*

“You’ll be done before you know it”

VO “We at MECC are hoping that we can help you get off to a wonderful start at the college, so you can be successful in your classes and graduate with honors!”

SCREEN 26 - *Image of female student waving goodbye.*

“Good bye and good luck! ”

VO: Are you ready to do this? Great! Best of luck with the assessment and with your coming years at MECC.