

## Ability to Benefit Test

Individuals without a H.S. diploma or equivalent (such as a GED credential) can be eligible to apply for student financial aid funds to attend Southwestern OK State University @ Sayre if s/he passes an approved Ability To Benefit (ATB) test.

### Test Scores

SWOSU administers ACCUPLACER's three ATB test modules. Test scores set as the qualification for Ability-to-Benefit are one standard deviation below the mean for students graduating from high school who have taken ACCUPLACER in the last three years. The approved passing scores are shown below.

#### ACCUPLACER ATB Test Modules and Passing Scores

- English (Sentence Skills) 60
- Math (Arithmetic) 34
- Reading (Reading Comprehension) 55

A candidate must meet or exceed the minimum scores on each of the three approved tests in a single test administration. Candidates who do not meet or exceed all three passing scores on one test date must retake the complete set of three tests and pass all three tests in that administration. Individual test section scores from different test dates cannot be combined.

### Re-Test Policy

Within any three-month period, ATB candidates are permitted an initial test and one retest. There should be a two-week waiting period between the initial test and the retest. Students are encouraged to use the waiting period for study and review. A candidate should be permitted a third attempt after an additional two-week waiting period only if s/he can provide evidence/documentation of some instructional intervention that would suggest that score improvement would be possible. A candidate must wait one year before s/he may take the ATB tests again. ATB does not replace high school graduation. Individuals are encouraged to complete their high school diploma or the GED.

### ATB Data Retention & Reporting

A record of all students who take ACCUPLACER tests for ATB purposes is maintained. Records include information on all ATB test sessions including successful and unsuccessful attempts. Each record contains the name of the student, Student ID number, the date of the session and test scores. Records are kept for a period of three years. Every three years, ATB data will be provided to the U.S. Department of Education.

### The ATB Requirement

In December 1990 the Federal Department of Education issued a policy requiring the testing of students who did not possess a high school diploma or a GED (General Educational Development) credential but who wished both to enroll in post secondary education, and to apply for federal financial aid. Passing an appropriate test at the specified level would indicate that the candidate has sufficient "ability to benefit" (ATB) from post-secondary education and consequently that the application process for federal financial aid could begin. Test publishers were invited to submit tests for this purpose and, after a review process, the US Department of Education issued a list of acceptable tests for post-secondary institutions to use for the purpose of "Ability to Benefit" testing. The US Department of Education has approved Accuplacer's Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills, and Arithmetic for ATB testing. All testing should be completed on the same day, unless there is a need to accommodate a student with a documented disability. The Ability to Benefit determination must be made prior to the individual's admission to the College and/or prior to any Financial Aid award.

## Ability to Benefit Test Student Procedure

1. Candidate must have a SWOSU Student ID # in order to take the ATB test.
2. Candidate contacts the Sayre or Weatherford Assessment/Testing Center for ATB testing:
  - Sayre Campus, Sherron Manning  
580-928-5533, ext. 2131  
[sherron.manning@swosu.edu](mailto:sherron.manning@swosu.edu)
  - Weatherford Campus, Sharon Jenkins  
580-774-7184  
[sharon.jenkins@swosu.edu](mailto:sharon.jenkins@swosu.edu)
3. There is a \$10 re-scheduling/cancellation fee if requested less than 24 hours before the test.
4. Candidate must provide valid Photo ID (such as a current SWOSU ID, driver's license or passport).
5. Candidate sits for all three ATB test modules on the same test date. Candidate must pass all three ATB test modules on the same test date in order to pass the ATB test.
6. If the candidate does not pass all three ATB test modules on the same test date, a re-test may be taken after a minimum two-week waiting period. A candidate should be permitted a third attempt after an additional two-week waiting period only if s/he can provide evidence/documentation of some instructional intervention that would suggest that score improvement would be possible. Testing and re-testing must be completed within a three-month period. If further re-testing is necessary, a candidate must wait one year before attempting ATB tests again.
7. Please do your very best on all test modules. Two of these test modules may also exempt you from taking two remedial classes.