

## **Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE)**

The State of Florida requires each institution offering Postsecondary Vocational Certificate Education to administer an approved examination to assess student mastery of basic skills. Minimum basic skills grade levels in mathematics, language, and reading, are defined for each program. Students should consult vocational program advisors for information on basic skills grade levels required for specific programs. Depending on the Vocational Credit Certificate program, Miami-Dade College (MDC) administers the TABE Complete Battery or Survey, Level A, Forms 7 & 8. Corrections, Fire, Law Enforcement, and Medical programs currently use the Complete Battery. Students interested in these programs should consult with a program advisor for specific admissions and certification requirements. Agencies sponsoring Vocational Credit Certificate seeking students may set higher requirements and exceptions for their testing.

The State also requires each institution offering Adult General Education programs to administer an approved examination to place students into the appropriate course(s) for their literacy levels in the areas of mathematics, reading, and language. Students should consult Adult Basic Education (ABE) advisors for information on the minimum TABE grade levels that are required for placement in the ABE programs. MDC administers the TABE Survey Forms 7 & 8 with Locator for this purpose.

The Associate in Science nursing programs at MDC also require the TABE for admission into their credit programs. Students interested in the nursing credit programs should consult with a nursing program advisor for specific admissions requirements.

### **THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE TESTED**

1. All first-time-in-program students who designate themselves as certificate-seeking in a vocational program of 450 hours or more. Such students must complete an entry-level examination within the first six weeks of admission into the program.
2. All students whose TABE (or other approved examination) scores are more than two years old and whose tests have not been used for placement.
3. All students enrolling in an Adult General Education program.
4. All students seeking entry into the Associate in Science degree nursing program.

### **THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS ARE EXEMPT FROM TESTING**

*(except for specific situations such as certain programs sponsored by external funding agencies and the nursing credit programs)*

1. Students who have earned an Associate degree (e.g. Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, Associate in Applied Science, etc.) or higher recognized by MDC. (Exception Note: Except in specific situations such as certain programs sponsored by external funding agencies.) Official documentation is required.
2. Students who present passing [SAT-I](#), [ACT](#), or [CPT](#) scores which exempt them from college preparatory placement courses, are exempt from testing for Vocational Credit Certificate programs. The student must have passing scores in all three subject areas.
3. Students who have completed the College-Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST) requirement pursuant to Section 1008.29 F.S. are exempt from testing for Vocational Credit Certificate programs.
4. Students who present official scores on any of the state-approved exams (including the CPT), which demonstrate the skill level required by the specific program. The scores must have been obtained within the past two years.

### **EXEMPTED FROM EXIT TESTING ONLY:**

1. Students who have earned a license from an approved national, state, or industry agency are exempt from the TABE exit testing requirement. The license has to be specific to the career and must be necessary in order to work in that field. Official license and documentation is required. (Note: Initial testing is required.)

## TEST INFORMATION/ADMINISTRATION

The TABE Complete Battery and Survey versions each measure skills in **Reading, Mathematics, Language Skills, and Spelling** in a context that is meaningful to adults. The TABE may be administered in a paper and pencil format or on the computer (TABE-PC). The tests are timed and take approximately 3 hours to complete the Complete Battery and 1 1/2 hours to complete the Survey. On the day of the test, students need to bring an official photo-bearing ID card (official ID's include military, unexpired passports, FL driver's license, FL ID, recent alien residency card). There is no penalty for guessing on any of the subtests. Academic support labs are available to prepare students to take the TABE. Information about each of the subtests is provided below and on the following pages. Sample questions are also included. For additional testing information please visit the testing website at <http://www.mdcc.edu/ir>.

## SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Special editions of TABE are available for students with disabling conditions. Special testing accommodations for students with disabilities are available from the campus ACCESS Department.

## ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TESTING

Students without sufficient proficiency in English take the TABE Survey (Reading and Language only) Forms 7 & 8 with Locator to place students in the appropriate course for their literacy level.

## RETEST INFORMATION

Placement test scores are valid for two years. If you **have not used** those scores for course placement during that time you will be required to take the test again. Completion of a prescribed remediation program is suggested prior to retesting with a minimum 30-day period after initial testing or between retests. An alternate form of the TABE is used for retests.

## ABILITY-TO-BENEFIT (ATB) TESTING GUIDELINES

The **Survey** and **Complete Battery** editions of TABE 7/8, Level A, may be used to qualify students for Federal Financial Aid Programs under the U.S. Department of Education's "Ability-to-Benefit" guidelines. Only the pencil-and-paper, not the PC version, has been approved. Additional information is available from the campus Financial Aid Department.

## SAMPLE QUESTIONS

### 1. Reading

Complete Battery (50 minutes/50 questions)  
Survey (25 minutes/25 questions)

This subtest includes the following:

- vocabulary words that are embedded in passages or documents reflecting the view of reading as a complex, interactive process;
- items that measure the ability to read diagrams, maps, charts, tables, forms, consumer labels, and other documents;
- items that measure the ability to find and use information from sources such as table of contents, a dictionary, and library computer displays.

#### *Sample Questions for Reading:*

- The dark \_\_\_\_\_ went away and the sun came out.
  - trees
  - paint
  - clouds
  - window
- The house was quiet. Everyone was asleep except Beth. She was thinking about tomorrow and her first day on the new job. Why couldn't Beth sleep?
  - The house was too quiet
  - She wanted to talk to someone
  - She was thinking about her new job
  - There were other people in the house

## 2. Mathematics Computation

Complete Battery (15 minutes/25 questions)

Survey (9 minutes/15 questions)

This subtest measures the understanding of operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, decimals, integers, algebraic expressions, exponents, percents, and fractions.

### *Sample Questions for Mathematics Computation:*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Add $22 + 11 =$<br>a. 11<br>b. 22<br>c. 33<br>d. 44<br>e. None of the above | 2. Add $16 \frac{1}{8} + 5 \frac{5}{8} =$<br>a. $21 \frac{3}{4}$<br>b. $21 \frac{5}{8}$<br>c. $21 \frac{6}{16}$<br>d. $21 \frac{3}{8}$<br>e. None of the above |
|--|--|

## 3. Applied Mathematics

Complete Battery (50 minutes/50 questions)

Survey (25 minutes/25 questions)

This subtest covers numeration, computation in context, estimation, number theory, measurement, data interpretation, geometry, pre-algebra, and algebra.

### *Sample Questions for Applied Mathematics:*

1. What number is missing from this number sequence?  
  
2, \_\_, 6, 8, 10  
  
a. 1  
b. 3  
c. 4  
d. 5
  
2. The price of a \$300 dress was reduced 15% for a sale.  
What is the sale price of the dress?  
  
a. \$245  
b. \$285  
c. \$255  
d. \$215

#### 4. **Language**

Complete Battery (39 minutes/55 questions)  
Survey (18 minutes/25 questions)

This subtest assesses skills in the areas of usage, mechanics, sentence formation, and paragraph development.

##### *Sample Questions for Language:*

1. Read the four sentences. Choose the sentence that is written correctly and shows the correct capitalization and punctuation.

- a. Tom helped I carry the boxes.
- b. We loaded the apples tomorrow.
- c. Stopping on my way home from work.
- d. They are packing the peaches today.

2. Read the underlined sentences. Choose the sentence that best combines those two into one.

Eva sorted a stack of mail.  
The stack was huge.

- a. Eva sorted a huge stack of mail.
- b. Eva sorted and stacked the mail.
- c. Eva sorted a stack of mail, and it was huge.

#### 5. **Spelling**

Complete Battery (10 minutes/20 questions)  
Survey (10 minutes/20 questions)

##### *Sample Question for Spelling:*

1. Find the word that is spelled correctly and best completes the sentence.

I felt the cool \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. breze
- b. breeze
- c. breaze
- d. breize

##### **Answers to Sample Questions**

<u>Reading</u>	<u>Mathematics Computation</u>	<u>Applied Mathematics</u>	<u>Language</u>	<u>Spelling</u>
1. c	1. c	1. c	1. d	1. b
2. c	2. a	2. c	2. a	