



Listening. Learning. Leading.

Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress

Student Information Booklet Standard Form & Abbreviated Form

The Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress™

What is the MAPP™ Test?

The MAPP™ test is a test of general academic skills. It includes material that is representative of the subject matter usually taught in courses taken during the first two years of college — the “core curriculum” or the “general education requirements.” This test is intended for use by colleges and universities to assess the outcomes of their general education programs to improve the quality of instruction and learning.

How long is the test?

The standard, multiple-choice test consists of 108 questions and is 120 minutes long. The abbreviated, multiple-choice test consists of 36 questions and is 40 minutes long.

How is it scored?

Scores are based on the number of questions answered correctly. Because there is no penalty for guessing, test takers are encouraged to answer every question.

What does the test cover?

The questions measure four types of skills — reading, writing, mathematics and critical thinking. The specific skills tested are listed at the end of this booklet.

The reading and critical thinking questions do not ask for recall of information learned in specific subjects such as psychology, history, biology or English. Instead, these questions focus on the reading and critical thinking skills that students should develop while studying these subjects. The questions are based on materials from three academic areas — humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

The humanities materials consist mostly of reading selections, but they may also include visual materials. The reading selections include excerpts from art history, philosophy, literary criticism and literature, including poetry, fiction and nonfiction.

The social sciences materials include reading selections, graphs and tables. They present topics and issues that might be discussed in a general social science course or in more specialized courses in history, economics, political science, psychology, anthropology and sociology.

The natural sciences materials include reading selections, graphs and charts. They present topics and issues that might be discussed in a general science course or in more specialized courses in biology, astronomy, geography and physics.

When and where is the test given?

Each college chooses when and where to give the test and decides which students will be tested. Students with disabilities are encouraged to discuss any special needs they have with the test coordinator.

Why should students try their best on this test?

Colleges and universities are accountable to their state funding agencies and to accrediting associations. By demonstrating student performance outcomes, schools can prove that funds are being spent appropriately and that students are learning. Students should try to do their best in these performance outcome assessments because it will help their colleges or universities demonstrate student learning and increase the chances of receiving appropriate support from funding agencies. In addition, strong student performance will be perceived in the broader marketplace as a reflection of the quality of the undergraduate degree. Faculty use test results to evaluate and improve the curriculum so students will receive the best preparation possible for their future careers.

What kinds of scores are reported on the standard form (108 questions)?

Students who take the standard form of the MAPP test will receive their scores on an individual score report that is sent to their chosen institution about a month after testing is completed. The individual report includes a total score, reported on a scale of 400 to 500, and seven subscores, each reported on a scale of 100 to 130. The seven subscores include four “skill subscores” (critical thinking, reading, writing and mathematics) and three “context-based subscores” (humanities, natural sciences and social sciences).

The individual report also includes nine proficiency classifications. The student’s performance in three “skill areas” (reading and critical thinking, writing, and mathematics) will be classified as Proficient, Marginal or Not Proficient at each of three levels of proficiency. Each of these three proficiency levels is associated with a set of specific skills tested. (See the list of specific skills tested, at the end of this booklet.)

The test taker’s pre-selected institution will also receive rosters showing the scores and proficiency classifications of each individual student and a statistical report describing the performance of the group of students tested.

What kinds of scores are reported on the abbreviated form (36 questions)?

Students who take the abbreviated form of the MAPP test will receive a total score, reported on a scale of 400 to 500. It will be included on an alphabetical roster that will be sent to the test taker’s chosen institution about a month after testing is completed. This institution will also receive a statistical report describing the performance of the group of students tested. The report will include information not only about the students’ total scores, but also about their performance on seven subscores and nine proficiency classifications.

Specific skills assessed by the MAPP test

Reading and critical thinking skills

Proficiency Level 1 (reading)

- 1) Recognize factual material explicitly presented in a reading passage
- 2) Understand the meaning of particular words or phrases in the context of a reading passage

Proficiency Level 2 (reading)

- 1) Synthesize material from different sections of a passage
- 2) Recognize valid inferences derived from material in the passage
- 3) Identify accurate summaries of a passage or of significant sections of the passage
- 4) Understand and interpret figurative language
- 5) Discern the main idea, purpose or focus of a passage, or of a significant portion of the passage

Proficiency Level 3 (critical thinking)

- 1) Evaluate competing causal explanations
- 2) Evaluate hypotheses for consistency with known facts
- 3) Determine the relevance of information for evaluating an argument or conclusion
- 4) Determine whether an artistic interpretation is supported by evidence contained in a work
- 5) Recognize the salient features or themes in a work of art
- 6) Evaluate the appropriateness of procedures for investigating a question of causation
- 7) Evaluate data for consistency with known facts, hypotheses or methods
- 8) Recognize flaws and inconsistencies in an argument

Writing skills

Proficiency Level 1

- 1) Recognize agreement among basic grammatical elements (e.g., nouns, verbs, pronouns and conjunctions)
- 2) Recognize appropriate transition words
- 3) Recognize incorrect word choice
- 4) Order sentences in a paragraph
- 5) Order elements in an outline

Proficiency Level 2

- 1) Incorporate new material into a passage
- 2) Recognize agreement among basic grammatical elements (e.g., nouns, verbs, pronouns and conjunctions) when these elements are complicated by intervening words or phrases
- 3) Combine simple clauses into single, more complex combinations
- 4) Recast existing sentences into new syntactic combinations

Proficiency Level 3

- 1) Recognize appropriate use of parallelism
- 2) Recognize appropriate use of idiomatic language
- 3) Recognize redundancy
- 4) Recognize proper constructions
- 5) Recognize the most appropriate revision

Mathematical skills

Proficiency Level 1

- 1) Solve word problems that would most likely be solved by arithmetic and do not involve conversion of units or proportionality. (These problems can be multistep if the steps are repeated rather than embedded.)
- 2) Solve problems involving the informal properties of numbers and operations, often involving the number line, including positive and negative numbers, whole numbers and fractions (including conversions of common fractions to percent, such as converting $\frac{1}{4}$ to 25%).
- 3) Solve problems requiring a general understanding of square roots and the squares of numbers.
- 4) Solve a simple equation or substitute numbers into an algebraic expression.
- 5) Find information from a graph. (This task may involve finding a specified piece of information in a graph that also contains other information.)

Proficiency Level 2

At level 2, a student is able to perform the following mathematical tasks:

- 1) Solve arithmetic problems with some complications, such as complex wording, maximizing or minimizing, and embedded ratios. (These problems include algebra problems that can be solved by arithmetic, and the answer choices are numeric.)
- 2) Simplify algebraic expressions, perform basic translation and draw conclusions from algebraic equations and inequalities. (These tasks are more complicated than solving a simple equation, though they may be approached arithmetically by substituting numbers.)
- 3) Interpret a trend represented in a graph or choose a graph that reflects a trend.
- 4) Solve problems involving sets. (The problems would have numeric answer choices.)

Proficiency Level 3

- 1) Solve word problems that would most likely not be solved by arithmetic. (The answer choices are either algebraic expressions or are numbers that do not lend themselves to back-solving.)
- 2) Solve problems involving difficult arithmetic concepts, such as exponents and roots other than squares and square roots, and percent of increase or decrease.
- 3) Generalize about numbers (e.g., identify the values of x for which an expression increases as x increases).
- 4) Solve problems requiring an understanding of the properties of integers, rational numbers, etc.
- 5) Interpret a graph in which the trends are to be expressed algebraically or in which one of the following is involved: exponents and roots other than squares and square roots, and percent of increase or decrease.
- 6) Solve problems requiring insight or logical reasoning.

Comments and suggestions

If you have concerns about a specific question, bring them to the attention of the supervisor after you have completed the test so they can be forwarded to us. We investigate and respond to all questions raised by students or supervisors.