

ABILITY TO BENEFIT (ATB) TEST

What is Ability to Benefit (ATB)?

Under federal law, all students applying for Title IV Financial Aid for post-secondary education must demonstrate an ability to benefit from a college education.

How do students demonstrate Ability to Benefit?

- Students who have earned a high school diploma, GED , or equivalent are considered to have the basic skills to benefit from a college education. These students **DO NOT** need to take Ability to Benefit (ATB) test.
- Students who do not have a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent can demonstrate Ability to Benefit in one of three ways:
 1. Successfully complete (with a “C” or better in each course) six units of degree applicable coursework.

OR

2. Take the ATB test at Grossmont College and achieve the minimum score required for ATB eligibility. You must meet or exceed the minimum score in all ATB exams (reading, writing skills and mathematics). Tests are available by appointment only. Contact the Assessment Office at (619) 644-7200 or visit Room 70-202. Remember, prior to making an appointment to take the ATB test, you **MUST**:
 - a. Apply to Grossmont College (go to www.grossmont.edu), and
 - b. Apply for financial aid at Grossmont College (go to www.fafsa.gov), and
 - c. Enroll in classes for the upcoming semester

OR

3. Take the GED examination or the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE). If you are interested in either exam, you can contact:

GED

Foothills Adult Education
1550 Melody Lane
El Cajon, CA 92019
(619) 401-4126

CHSPE

CHSPE Office
Sacramento County Office of ED
P.O. Box 269003
Sacramento, CA 95826-9003
(866) 342-4773
E-Mail chspe@scoe.net

Which ATB tests are administered by Grossmont College?

English as a Second Language

CELSA-Combined English Language Skills Assessment. Students who plan to enroll in English as a Second Language courses (ESL) should take the CELSA exam for Ability to Benefit.

Native speakers of English

ACT/COMPASS-Reading, writing skills and mathematics. Students who plan to enroll in native speaker English should take the ACT/COMPASS test.

Are ATB tests different from regular English/ESL/math placements?

Yes, at Grossmont College the ATB test is different from the regular English/ESL/math placement test. In order to take an English/ESL or math class, all students must complete the regular battery of testing.

What is the re-test policy for ATB testing at Grossmont College?

- If a student does not achieve the minimum score required for ATB eligibility, the student can make an appointment to re-test within **one month** of the original attempt date.
- If a student fails to achieve a minimum score at the re-test, the student will not be eligible to take the ATB test again for one year from the re-test date. **If, within this time period, you successfully complete (with a “C” or better in each course) six units of degree applicable coursework, then contact your Financial Aid Advisor so they can review your courses.**

Are practice tests available?

Yes, practice tests and required scores are available on-line. Please visit the Grossmont College Assessment Center webpage at <http://www.grossmont.edu/assessment/abilitytobenefit.asp>.