A comprehensive computerized placement and diagnostic assessment system — supporting student success through course placement, advising, and retention services.
All first-time or transfer students seeking admission or re-admission into degree programs at Connors State College are required to participate in entry-level assessment. Methods of assessment are as follows:

**First-Time College Students:** Students 20 years of age or younger (high school graduates and non-graduates whose high school class has graduated) must provide ACT scores and are required to take COMPASS, if any of the four ACT sub-scores in the areas of Reading, Mathematics, English and Science Reasoning is less than 19.

Students 21 years of age or older (high school graduates and non-graduates) may provide ACT scores, if available, or take COMPASS for entry-level assessment.

**Transfer & Returning Students:** (including students who have not attended Connors within the previous 12 months) must provide the following: College transcript(s) of all previous college course work, high school transcript(s), ACT scores, COMPASS or equivalent entry-assessment scores.

**Overview of COMPASS**

COMPASS is a computer-adaptive test designed to determine skill levels in one or more of the basic academic skills areas of reading, writing/English, and mathematics. By assessing ability levels in these critical areas, the COMPASS system will help to determine the placement in either college-level course work or in preparatory (skills-building) courses. Additional information about COMPASS and a CSC COMPASS Study Guide are also available on Connors’ web page.

www.connorsstate.edu

**Reading Placement:** The Reading Test focuses on reading comprehension. Reading passages are of five types: prose fiction, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and practical reading passages. The reading level of each passage is approximately equal to what a student encounters in the first year of college. The reading skills assessed are referring and reasoning. Referring items ask about information that is explicitly stated in a passage. Reasoning items measure skills in critical understanding, determining specific meanings and inferences. The Reading Test determines whether the student has the reading skills necessary to succeed in college-level courses or whether skills-building, preparatory courses are required.

**Writing Placement:** The Writing Skills Test assesses students in the categories of usage/mechanics and rhetorical skills. Usage/mechanics includes punctuation, basic grammar/usage and sentence structure. Rhetorical skills include strategy, organization and style. The test simulates an editing task by presenting examinees with a passage on the screen and requiring them to find errors in grammar, usage, and style and then to correct the errors by selecting the appropriate text segment from five alternatives. In addition to the passage elements, this test has one or two multiple choice items that appear after the examinee is finished revising the passage. These items pose global questions related to the passage. The Test determines placement into a preparatory English course or an English Composition I course.

**Mathematics Placement:** The Mathematics Test assesses students’ knowledge in numerical skills, pre-algebra and algebra. Numerical skills and pre-algebra questions range from basic operations with integers, fractions, conversions, averages and decimals to the understanding and use of exponents, absolute values and percentages. The algebra questions are from elementary and intermediate algebra including equations, polynomials, formula manipulations and algebraic expressions. The test measures three general levels of performance: basic skills, applications and analysis. This test results in placement into the appropriate skills-building mathematical course or for enrollment into a college-level math course. Calculators are permitted. Students should use calculators provided by library staff or use the online Windows® calculator built into the math software.

**Science Placement:** Placement into college-level science courses is based on reading, writing and math placement test scores as described above.
**Test Administration & Accommodations**

The COMPASS tests are administered daily at either the Warner campus or downtown Muskogee campus libraries. No appointment is necessary but students must have a COMPASS Referral Form from the Registrar’s Office and a photo ID to take the tests. Initial testing is free. Check the Registrar’s Office for the test retake policy. There is a charge for test retakes.

COMPASS is administered by computer. Students will read the instructions and questions on the computer screen and will select answers using the computer keyboard. No previous computer experience is necessary although it is helpful. The test instructions are easy to understand, and entering information is easy. Test administrators are present to answer questions that may arise during the test administration.

Requests from individuals with disabilities for accommodations necessary for COMPASS testing should be made in advance with supporting documentation by contacting the Dean of Student Life, Warner campus, 918.463.2931, extensions 6351 or 6296.

Remember to give yourself enough time to complete the test(s) before the library closes. Give yourself approximately 45-60 minutes for each test you take. If you intend to enroll after testing, you should also factor that time into your decision as well.

**Test Taking Tips**

- Be well rested before you test. If you are hungry, eat something before you test.
- If you have children with you, return when you have a sitter.
- If you wear glasses or contacts, be sure to have them with you.
- Read the instructions carefully.
- Make use of the practice items provided by COMPASS. Each test has a built-in practice session to familiarize you with the kinds of questions you will encounter in the test to follow.
- Although the tests are not timed, give yourself at least an hour and a half (preferably two hours) to complete the entire battery of tests before the library closes. Give yourself approximately 45-60 minutes to complete a single test.
- Do your best. Admissions advisors will use the test scores to place you in appropriate classes.
- You may use a calculator on the math test. Calculators will be available in the library for your use or you can use the online Windows® calculator built into the testing software. Students should not bring or use their own calculators.
- You may change your answers on any test question until you go on to the next question. You will not be able to return to previous questions in order to change your answers. You must answer each question presented to you. You are not penalized for guessing.
- Try to relax! If you are not ready to take the test(s) right now, come back when you feel more prepared! Study guides are available in the CSC libraries.