

compass math placement test study guide

Compass Math Placement Test Study Guide: Your Path to Success

compass math placement test study guide is an essential resource for students preparing to take the COMPASS exam, particularly the math section. Whether you're stepping into college for the first time or looking to place into the right math course, understanding how to approach this test can make a significant difference. This guide covers everything from the test structure and key topics to effective study strategies, helping you feel confident and ready on test day.

Understanding the COMPASS Math Placement Test

Before diving into study techniques, it's important to grasp what the COMPASS math placement test entails. The COMPASS exam is designed to assess your existing math skills to place you in the appropriate college-level course, ensuring you neither struggle with too advanced material nor waste time in courses you've already mastered.

Test Format and Content

The math section typically covers a range of topics including arithmetic, elementary algebra, and college algebra. You'll encounter multiple-choice questions and sometimes grid-in responses where you must provide your own answers. The test is adaptive, meaning the difficulty adjusts based on your responses.

Key areas you should expect include:

- Basic operations with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and percentages
- Ratios, proportions, and rates
- Solving linear equations and inequalities
- Understanding functions and their graphs
- Polynomials, quadratic equations, and factoring
- Systems of equations and inequalities

Knowing the format helps reduce anxiety and allows you to focus your study time efficiently.

Essential Topics to Review for the COMPASS Math Placement

Test

The broad scope of the COMPASS math test means you should refresh a variety of foundational math concepts. Here's a breakdown of the crucial topics to prioritize in your study sessions.

Arithmetic Fundamentals

Even though college math often involves algebra or higher, the test frequently assesses your grasp of basic arithmetic. Key areas include:

- Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers and decimals
- Working with fractions and mixed numbers
- Converting between fractions, decimals, and percentages
- Understanding ratios and proportions

Mastery of these basics is critical because they form the building blocks for more complex problems.

Algebra Essentials

Algebra tends to carry the most weight on the COMPASS test. Focus on:

- Solving linear equations and inequalities
- Simplifying algebraic expressions
- Factoring polynomials and solving quadratic equations
- Understanding functions, including domain and range
- Working with exponents and radicals

If you're rusty on any of these, targeted practice can boost your confidence and test scores.

Additional Topics

Some tests may also touch on geometry basics, such as calculating perimeter, area, and volume, or interpreting graphs and tables. While these might not be the core focus, it's wise to brush up on these concepts as well.

Study Strategies for the COMPASS Math Placement Test

Knowing what to study is only half the battle. How you study can greatly impact your results. Here are some tips to help you create an effective study plan.

Create a Realistic Study Schedule

Start by assessing how much time you have before the test. Break down the topics into manageable chunks and assign specific days or hours to each. Consistency is key—studying a little every day beats cramming last minute.

Use Practice Tests and Sample Questions

One of the best ways to prepare is by taking practice tests. This helps you:

- Familiarize yourself with test format and question types
- Identify areas where you need extra review
- Improve your time management skills

Many colleges offer free COMPASS practice tests online, and there are numerous prep books available that include sample questions and detailed explanations.

Focus on Weak Areas

As you practice, pay close attention to the types of questions you miss. Spend extra time reviewing those concepts. For example, if quadratic equations confuse you, seek out tutorials, videos, or worksheets focused on that topic.

Utilize Online Resources and Tools

There are plenty of online platforms offering tutorials, video lessons, and interactive exercises tailored to COMPASS math topics. Websites like Khan Academy, Mathway, and Purplemath can be invaluable for breaking down difficult problems into understandable steps.

Test Day Tips to Maximize Your Performance

When test day arrives, a clear mind and good preparation will serve you best. Here are some tips to keep in mind:

- Get a good night's sleep beforehand to ensure you're rested.
- Eat a nutritious meal to maintain energy and focus.
- Arrive early to the testing center to reduce stress.
- Read each question carefully and pace yourself—don't rush, but avoid spending too long on a single problem.
- Use scratch paper to organize your work and avoid careless mistakes.
- If you're unsure about a question, eliminate obviously wrong answers first to improve your chances if you need to guess.

How to Leverage Your Placement Test Results

Once you receive your scores, use them constructively. The goal of the COMPASS math placement test is to place you in a math course that matches your current skill level, setting you up for academic success.

If your scores suggest you need remedial or developmental math courses, don't be discouraged. Use this time to build a strong foundation. Many schools offer tutoring services or supplemental instruction—take advantage of these resources.

On the other hand, if you place into higher-level courses, be sure you feel prepared to handle the material. If not, consider retaking the test after additional study to improve your placement.

Final Thoughts on Preparing with a Compass Math Placement Test Study Guide

Approaching the COMPASS math placement test thoughtfully and systematically can transform what

might feel like a daunting challenge into an achievable goal. By understanding the test's structure, focusing on key math skills, and using targeted study strategies, you can boost your confidence and increase your chances of placing into the right math class.

Remember, the purpose of this test isn't just about passing—it's about ensuring you start your college math journey on the right track. With the right preparation and mindset, the COMPASS math placement test becomes a stepping stone toward your academic success.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Compass Math Placement Test?

The Compass Math Placement Test is an assessment used by colleges to determine a student's math skill level and place them in the appropriate math course.

What topics are covered in the Compass Math Placement Test?

The test typically covers arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and sometimes trigonometry, focusing on skills like fractions, equations, inequalities, functions, and graphing.

How can I prepare for the Compass Math Placement Test?

You can prepare by reviewing basic math concepts, practicing sample questions, using study guides specifically designed for the Compass test, and taking practice tests to assess your skills.

Are there any free study guides available for the Compass Math Placement Test?

Yes, there are many free study guides and practice tests available online from educational websites, community colleges, and official test preparation resources.

How long should I study for the Compass Math Placement Test?

The amount of study time varies, but generally, dedicating a few weeks to review key math concepts and practicing regularly is recommended for best results.

Can I use a calculator on the Compass Math Placement Test?

Yes, the Compass Math Placement Test usually allows the use of a basic calculator, but it's important to check the specific rules of the testing center beforehand.

What are some effective strategies for taking the Compass Math Placement Test?

Effective strategies include reading questions carefully, managing your time wisely, skipping difficult questions to return to them later, and practicing test-like conditions before the exam.

Where can I find official Compass Math Placement Test practice materials?

Official practice materials can often be found on the College Board website or through the testing center of the institution administering the test.

How does the Compass Math Placement Test score affect my college math course placement?

Your test score determines which math courses you qualify for, ensuring you are placed in a class that matches your current skill level to maximize your chances of success.

Additional Resources

Compass Math Placement Test Study Guide: Navigating Your Path to Success

compass math placement test study guide remains an essential resource for many students preparing to enter college-level mathematics courses. The COMPASS test, widely used by community colleges and universities, assesses a student's proficiency in various math topics to appropriately place them in courses that match their skill level. Understanding the structure, content, and strategic approaches to the COMPASS math placement test can significantly enhance a student's readiness and confidence, ultimately impacting their academic trajectory.

Understanding the COMPASS Math Placement Test

The COMPASS math placement test is designed to evaluate foundational math skills, ensuring students enroll in courses that suit their current knowledge and abilities. Unlike traditional exams, the COMPASS test is adaptive, adjusting question difficulty based on responses, which provides a tailored assessment for each test taker. This adaptive nature requires a comprehensive study strategy, as students must be prepared for a broad range of topics and difficulty levels.

The primary goal of the COMPASS test is to minimize placement errors, which can lead to students being enrolled in classes that are too challenging or too remedial. Therefore, a well-structured compass math

placement test study guide focuses not only on content review but also on test-taking techniques suited for adaptive assessments.

Key Content Areas Covered

The COMPASS math placement test typically covers several critical domains:

- **Basic Arithmetic:** Operations with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and percentages.
- **Algebra:** Simplifying expressions, solving linear equations and inequalities, and understanding functions.
- **Geometry:** Fundamental concepts including angles, shapes, area, volume, and coordinate geometry.
- **Trigonometry:** Basic trigonometric functions and identities, often included in higher-level placements.

A thorough compass math placement test study guide addresses each of these areas, ensuring students have a balanced preparation across the spectrum of math skills tested.

Strategic Preparation: Beyond Content Review

While mastery of math topics is paramount, effective preparation for the COMPASS test also involves understanding its format and adapting study methods accordingly. The adaptive testing algorithm can be intimidating, as incorrect answers lead to simpler questions, while correct responses increase difficulty. This dynamic requires students to maintain accuracy throughout the test while pacing themselves to avoid unnecessary errors.

Practice Tests and Diagnostic Assessments

One of the most effective components of a compass math placement test study guide is the inclusion of practice tests. These simulate the actual test environment, allowing students to familiarize themselves with question types and timing constraints. Additionally, diagnostic tests help identify strengths and weaknesses, enabling targeted study sessions.

Many educational platforms offer free or paid COMPASS practice exams that mimic the adaptive structure. Using these resources can reduce test anxiety and improve time management skills.

Time Management and Test-Taking Techniques

Unlike traditional timed exams, the COMPASS test often allows flexible timing; however, efficient time allocation remains critical. Students should focus on accuracy over speed, given the adaptive nature. A strategic approach includes:

- Reading questions carefully to avoid simple mistakes.
- Using scratch paper for complex calculations.
- Skipping and revisiting difficult questions if the test platform permits.
- Reviewing foundational formulas and properties to quickly recall essential information.

Integrating these techniques into study routines helps students approach the test methodically and confidently.

Resources and Tools for Effective Study

A compass math placement test study guide must highlight various educational tools and materials that cater to different learning styles. From textbooks to interactive online platforms, the diversity of resources can enhance understanding and retention.

Textbooks and Review Books

Traditional math review books remain valuable, providing structured lessons and practice problems. Titles tailored for COMPASS preparation often include detailed explanations, step-by-step solutions, and practice quizzes. Some popular options include “COMPASS Math Success” and “The Official COMPASS Test Study Guide.”

Online Platforms and Mobile Apps

Technology has transformed test preparation, with numerous online platforms offering adaptive learning experiences. Websites like Khan Academy, Mathway, and ALEKS provide customized practice and tutorials that align well with COMPASS content. Mobile apps also allow students to study on-the-go, reinforcing concepts through interactive quizzes and flashcards.

Tutoring and Study Groups

For students who benefit from personalized instruction, tutoring can be a game-changer. Tutors can identify individual challenges and tailor lessons accordingly. Additionally, study groups promote collaborative learning, allowing peers to exchange problem-solving strategies and explain concepts in accessible terms.

Comparing COMPASS with Other Placement Tests

Understanding COMPASS in the context of other placement exams, such as ACCUPLACER or ALEKS, can inform study approaches. While all these tests aim to assess readiness for college math, the COMPASS test's adaptive format differentiates it.

Unlike ACCUPLACER, which also uses adaptive testing but sometimes includes a broader range of question types, COMPASS focuses heavily on core mathematical reasoning within its adaptive framework. ALEKS, on the other hand, utilizes artificial intelligence to continuously assess student knowledge over time, providing a dynamic learning path.

This comparison underscores the necessity of a specialized compass math placement test study guide that addresses the unique features and question styles of the COMPASS exam.

Pros and Cons of the COMPASS Math Placement Test

Evaluating the COMPASS test itself can provide context for why a tailored study guide is critical.

- **Pros:** Adaptive testing personalizes difficulty, reducing unnecessary stress and accurately reflecting skill level. Immediate results help students and advisors make prompt decisions.
- **Cons:** The adaptive format can be daunting, and the lack of question review or skipping in some

versions may increase pressure. Limited retesting opportunities in some institutions require thorough preparation.

Recognizing these factors, a comprehensive study guide emphasizes both content mastery and psychological readiness.

Integrating Practice with Conceptual Understanding

A key insight from successful test-takers is the balance between rote practice and deep conceptual understanding. Memorizing formulas without comprehension often results in difficulty when faced with novel problem types, especially in an adaptive test environment.

A compass math placement test study guide therefore encourages students to:

1. Explore the ‘why’ behind mathematical operations and formulas.
2. Engage with problem-solving exercises that require application of concepts in varied contexts.
3. Review common mistakes and misconceptions to avoid repeating them during the test.

This approach nurtures mathematical intuition, which is invaluable for both the COMPASS test and future academic success.

Addressing Test Anxiety and Building Confidence

Finally, mental preparedness is as vital as academic readiness. Many students experience anxiety that can impair performance. Incorporating mindfulness techniques, positive visualization, and structured study schedules within the compass math placement test study guide can help mitigate stress.

Educators and advisors often recommend mock testing under timed conditions to build familiarity and reduce fear of the unknown. Confidence gained through preparation frequently translates into improved scores and better placement outcomes.

In sum, the compass math placement test study guide is more than a collection of practice problems; it is a

strategic framework that encompasses content review, adaptive test navigation, resource utilization, and psychological readiness. For students aiming to secure appropriate placement and embark on their academic careers with solid footing, a well-rounded preparation plan remains indispensable.

Compass Math Placement Test Study Guide

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Contains explained answers to questions like those that appear on the COMPASS Math Placement Test, covering numerical skills/pre-algebra, algebra, college algebra, geometry, and trigonometry.

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compass math placement test study guide: Career Development and Counseling Steven D. Brown, Robert W. Lent, 2013-01-04 Praise for Career Development and Counseling: Putting Theory and Research to Work, Second Edition This volume is an essential resource for the library of anyone interested in the field of career development, assessment, and counseling and should also prove invaluable for graduate students interested in immersing themselves in some of the best work being done today in the field of career development and counseling. —Nancy E. Betz, PhD, Professor, Department of Psychology, The Ohio State University In this second edition, Drs. Brown and Lent continue to shape career development discourse and illustrate the ongoing significance of the fields of career development and counseling in the twenty-first century. This edition will help both researchers and practitioners alike to better understand, investigate, and promote the role of work in people's lives. —Angela Byars-Winston, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin-Madison Complete coverage of leading career theories and practices Filled with the latest empirical and practical evidence, this new edition features: A new introductory chapter that defines and discusses the importance of career counseling in the twenty-first century, and offers a brief history of the field New chapters on gender, race/ethnicity, social class and poverty, sexual minority identity, disability status, personality, and relational factors Major theories of career development Coverage of the assessment of important career constructs and occupational information systems Interventions for working with career issues across the life span Edited by two of the leaders in the field of career development, and featuring contributions by many of the most well-regarded specialists in the field, Career Development and Counseling, Second Edition is the one book that every career counselor, vocational psychologist, and student of career development and counseling must have.

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compass math placement test study guide: The Community College Career Track Thomas Snyder, 2012-09-25 Get a good education without massive debt, and enter a field that's

actually hiring In coming years, millions of great jobs will be opening up in growth areas like advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, health care, information technology, and sustainable energy. These jobs can pay as well as, or much better than, the average income for four-year college graduates. They generally offer high levels of day-to-day satisfaction. And the path to all of them begins in the community colleges. In *The Community College Career Track*, Tom Snyder gives young people and their parents, as well as mid-life career changers, a practical, inspiring guide to taking that path and completing it successfully. The old model of a bachelor's degree leading to a good job and career has broken down for large numbers of young people, many of whom graduate college only to work in a career that doesn't require a degree. Meanwhile, millions of productive American white collar and blue-collar workers have been laid off and need retraining for second careers. This book helps you find a new way forward. Offers insights on how to save money over a lifetime through an affordable college education that provides high-paying jobs Author Tom Snyder is the president of Ivy Tech Community College, Indiana's statewide community college system and the largest singly accredited community college system in the country Author Tom Snyder has confronted the education-jobs mismatch from both sides, first as a highly successful business executive and now as an award-winning educator. Follow his efficient, affordable, and rewarding path to a great career and a satisfying life.

compass math placement test study guide: Handbook of Family Literacy Barbara H. Wasik, 2012-08-06 The Handbook of Family Literacy, 2e, provides the most comprehensive, up-to-date coverage of family literacy of any available book. It documents the need for literacy education for children and parents, describes early literacy and math development within the home, analyses interventions in home and center settings, and examines the issues faced by fathers and women with low literacy skills. Cultural issues are examined especially those for Hispanic, African American, American Indian, Alaskan Native, and migrant populations. Noted experts throughout the United States, Canada, England, the Netherlands, Germany, New Zealand, and South Africa analyze the commonalities and differences of family literacy across cultures and families. Key features include the following. Comprehensive - Provides updated information on the relation between early childhood literacy development, parenting education, and intervention services. Research Focus - Provides an extensive review of experimental studies, including national reviews and meta-analyses on family literacy. Practice Focus - Provides a comprehensive treatment of family literacy interventions necessary for program developers, policy makers, and researchers. Diversity Focus - Provides detailed information on cultural and diversity issues for guiding interventions, policy, and research. International Focus - Provides an international perspective on family literacy services that informs program developers, researchers, and policy makers across countries. Evaluation Focus - Provides detailed guidelines for ensuring program quality and fidelity and a valuable new evaluation perspective based on implementation science. This book is essential reading for anyone - researchers, program developers, students, practitioners, and policy makers - who needs to be knowledgeable about intervention issues, family needs, program developments, and research outcomes in family literacy.

compass math placement test study guide: Compass Strategy Complete Test Preparation Inc, 2013 Learn and practice proven multiple choice strategies for the COMPASS Placement Test, including reading comprehension, English grammar, word problems and Basic Math! Includes FREE ebook version suitable for iPhone, iPad, any tablet or smartphone! If you are preparing for the COMPASS Placement Test, you probably want all the help you can get! COMPASS Placement Test Strategy is your complete test prep guide to answering multiple choice questions! Multiple choice secrets, tips and strategies to increase your score! Not available anywhere else! You will learn: Powerful COMPASS multiple choice strategies with practice questions - Learn 15 powerful multiple choice strategies and then practice. Answer key for all practice questions with extensive commentary including tips, short-cuts and strategies. Test Prep for a multiple choice exam like the COMPASS Test - make sure you are preparing properly and not wasting valuable study time! Who does well on multiple choice exams like the COMPASS Placement Test and who does not - and how

to make sure you do! How to handle trick questions - usually there are one or two trick questions to separate the really good students from the rest - tips and strategies to handle these special questions. Step-by-step strategy for answering multiple choice - on any subject! Common Mistakes on the COMPASS Test - and how to avoid them How to avoid test anxiety - how to avoid one of the most common reasons for low scores on a test How to prepare for the COMPASS Placement test - proper preparation for your exam will definitely boost your score! Mental Test Prep - tips on the the all-important mental preparation! Learn what you must do in the test room The COMPASS Placement Test is a registered trademark of the ACT, INC, who are not involved in the production of, and do not endorse this publication. Includes over 150 Compass practice questions! Once you learn our powerful multiple choice strategy techniques, practice them right away on paragraph comprehension, basic math and arithmetic reasoning! Study When and Where You Want! The print version of COMPASS Test Strategy comes with a FREE ebook version suitable for any smartphone, iPhone, iPad or tablet, that you can immediately download after purchasing. You can practice your questions after working out at the anytime. Whenever you have those spare moments, you can consistently build your confidence. Practice Really Does Make Perfect! The more questions you see, the more likely you are to pass the test. You'll have over 150 practice questions that cover every category. You can fine-tune your knowledge in areas where you feel comfortable and be more efficient in improving your problem areas. Our practice test questions have been developed by our dedicated team of experts. All the material in the study guide, including every practice question, are designed to engage your critical thinking skills needed to pass the test! Heard it all before? Maybe you have heard this kind of thing before, and don't feel you need it. Maybe you are not sure if you are going to buy this book. Remember though, it only a few percentage points divide the PASS from the FAIL students! Even if our test tips increase your score by a few percentage points, isn't that worth it?

compass math placement test study guide: *Community College Mathematics* Brian Cafarella, 2022-06-29 This book explores the rich history of community college math with a specific focus on gatekeeper math classes. Gatekeeper math classes include courses such as college algebra, introduction to statistics, and all developmental math classes. For community colleges, successful completion of these classes is imperative for student retention. This book presents a decade-by-decade analysis of the history of community college mathematics. The author employs a mix of conceptual, empirical, and quantitative research. The empirical research stems from interviews with 30 community college faculty members from seven community colleges. From the 1970s to the pandemic in the early 2020s, the book explores math curricula as well as trends, initiatives, teaching practices, and mandates that have impacted community college math. The positives and negatives of such trends, initiatives, and mandates are presented along with suggestions on how to apply such knowledge going forward. The author addresses the key questions: How can we build a future model for community college gatekeeper math classes that is both successful and sustainable? Additionally, how can we learn from the past and the present to build such a model? This book will be ideal for students in graduate programs focusing on community college leadership or developmental education leadership as well as all those hoping to improve success rates in community college mathematics programs.

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Fernando F. Padró, Julie A. Furst-Bowe, 2012-05-15 In July 2011, the ASQ Education Division held its first Advancing the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Agenda in Education, the Workplace, and Society Conference at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. This publication is a selection of papers and workshops from this groundbreaking conference. The ideas presented here will help other educators and policy makers to develop their own innovative high-impact ideas for inspiring student interest in STEM careers, improving the delivery of STEM education at their schools and colleges, and helping STEM college graduates transition to the workplace. The chapters in this book reflect research and best practices, integrating the ideas of continuous improvement in combination with a can-do attitude, to provide a valuable resource that will lead others to consider similar innovative and collaborative educational structures that will drive more interest in STEM majors in college, and provide for our next generation of scientists, technicians, and engineers. "Prior to reviewing Advancing the STEM Agenda I had a list in my mind of topics that I hoped would be addressed. I'm very pleased with how many are covered—and covered well. This project succeeds at the challenge of providing not only beneficial breadth but also important depth. Because our public-private partnership has been committed explicitly to continuous improvement for more than a decade, I couldn't help but notice (as the editors also point out in their conclusion) the extent to which continuous improvement is a 'common thread' throughout the book. That speaks to the book's practical utility in many settings, and on a long-term basis. No less valuable is the discussion of student motivation by many of the authors, which STEM teachers in our area have identified as a major issue of interest to them in recent surveys. Richard Bogovich Executive Director Rochester Area Math Science Partnership, Minnesota. Veenstra, Padró, and Furst-Bowe provide a huge contribution to the field of STEM education. We all know the statistics and of the huge need in the area of STEM students and education, but what has been missing are application and success stories backed by research and modeling. The editors have successfully contributed to our need by focusing on collaborative models, building the K-12 pipeline, showing what works at the collegiate level, connecting across gender issues, and illustrating workforce and innovative ideas. John J. Jasinski President Northwest Missouri State University Advancing the STEM Agenda provides a broad set of current perspectives that will contribute in many ways to advancing the understanding and enhancement of education in science, education, and engineering. This work is packed with insights and perspectives from experienced educators and bridges the transition from education to workplace. John Dew Senior Vice Chancellor Troy University

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test-takers need to know. Focused, easy-to-follow review chapters cover all the pre-algebra, algebra, geometry, and trigonometry skills tested on the exam. Drills and examples build skills and explain key concepts. The book includes two practice tests based on actual COMPASS test questions. Detailed explanations of answers help you identify your strengths and weaknesses while reinforcing your knowledge. Bob also gives you study tips, strategies, and confidence-boosting advice for test day, so you'll be ready to tackle the COMPASS. Bob Miller's Math Review for the COMPASS is just part of the equation! REA has also developed an all-new test prep for the verbal portion of the exam, Doug French's Verbal Review for the COMPASS Exam. What is the COMPASS? The COMPASS is a computer-adaptive college placement exam used by high schools, technical schools, community colleges, and four-year colleges across the country. It evaluates the math, English language, and writing skill levels of incoming students. A high score on the COMPASS helps students advance to higher-level college classes.

compass math placement test study guide: College Knowledge David T. Conley, 2008-01-28 Although more and more students have the test scores and transcripts to get into college, far too many are struggling once they get there. These students are surprised to find that college coursework demands so much more of them than high school. For the first time, they are asked to think deeply, write extensively, document assertions, solve non-routine problems, apply concepts, and accept unvarnished critiques of their work. College Knowledge confronts this problem by looking at the disconnect between what high schools do and what colleges expect and proposes a solution by identifying what students need to know and be able to do in order to succeed. The book is based on an extensive three-year project sponsored by the Association of American Universities in partnership with The Pew Charitable Trusts. This landmark research identified what it takes to succeed in entry-level university courses. Based on the project's findings - and interviews with students, faculty, and staff - this groundbreaking book delineates the cognitive skills and subject area knowledge that college-bound students need to master in order to succeed in today's colleges and universities. These Standards for Success cover the major subject areas of English, mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences, second languages, and the arts.

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