

INTERPRETING YOUR COMPOSITION PLACEMENT TEST (CPT) SCORE

Here is a guide to help you choose an English or Communications course at the University of the Fraser Valley, based on your score on the CPT. A CPT score is a guide, a type of advising tool. UFV advisors and the English and Communications faculty provide this tool, and these guidelines, so that you will enter an English course at a level in which you are likely to be successful.

Your CPT results are shown in the form of seven (7) scores, as follows:

CPT Score	Interpretation
REM	The number of sentences (out of 20) in which you correctly identified errors commonly made by native speakers of English.
ELS	The number of sentences (out of 20) in which you correctly identified errors made by those who speak English as an additional language. If your ELS score is below 10, then you should seriously consider taking a course in English as a Second Language.
Content	The points you were assigned (out of 20) for the clarity and development of your ideas, and the use of paragraphing in the essay.
Sentences	The points you were assigned (out of 20) for the completeness of your sentences, and the use of correct grammar in the essay.
Words	The points you were assigned (out of 20) for the clarity and level of the words you used in the essay.
Essay Total	Your total essay score (out of 60).
TOTAL	Your total CPT score (out of 100). Note: This is not a percentage mark.

Here are the guidelines for choosing English and Communications courses based on your score:

If your total score is...	
40 or less	If English is your first language and your score is 40 or less, please contact the Upgrading and University Preparation (UUP) department office to discuss your options; an assessment may be required. (See over for contact information). If English is not your first language and your score is 40 or less, please contact the English Language Studies (ELS) department to discuss your options; an assessment may be required. (See over for contact information).
41 - 47	Depending on your needs and goals, take English 081, 090, 091, 099 or Communications 099. Consult an Academic Advisor in order to decide on the best course.
48 - 66	You may take English 105 to 170 or Communications 115 to 175. If you feel your essay writing skills are weak, it is recommended that you take English 105 before undertaking a 100 level Literature course.
67 or more	Students who achieve a score of 67 or higher may take any of the above named courses or consult the various departments for a recommendation and appropriate placement.

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You may wonder how your score compares to those scores earned by other students. Here are some guidelines:

1. The average CPT “total score” over the last six years at the University of the Fraser Valley has been 50.
2. Of the CPT “total scores” during the last six years, 46% have been below 50.
3. Only 5% of the scores have been above 62 and only 1% of writers have achieved 68 or higher.

As you can see, few students receive high scores on the CPT. Even students who did well in English courses in the past will sometimes receive a low score on the CPT.

Possible reasons for a low score:

1. Your skills in English composition may be weak and need improvement. Remember, the CPT was marked according to college and university standards for good English composition.
2. You may have written the test in a hurry and not followed the directions carefully or made careless errors, especially in the sentence section.

Some Final Thoughts

Be prepared to learn new skills, to practise, to edit, to receive feedback and to practise some more; in short, to work at it!

The University of the Fraser Valley is committed to each student’s success in his or her first English or Communications course. However, it is important that you start at a level where you can be successful with your current skills. Use the guide on the other side of the page to choose your first course. Good writing is an important part of success in all courses, and is essential in getting a good job. No matter which program you take at the University of the Fraser Valley, we are committed to helping you learn to write well.

Academic Advisors	www.ufv.ca/advising
Email advising@ufv.ca or call for more information:	
Abbotsford campus, room S1111 604-864-4674	
Chilliwack campus, room A1318 604-795-2808	
Educational advising appointments can be booked by filling out the online form on the website or by phoning the Advising Centre reception desk at either campus. Daytime appointments are available Monday to Friday. Weekly evening appointments and daily drop-in advising service is also available. Call for more information.	
English Language Studies (ELS)	www.ufv.ca/els
Email elsinfo@ufv.ca or call for more information:	
Abbotsford campus, room A247 604-854-4581	
Upgrading and University Preparation (UUP)	www.ufv.ca/upgrading
Email upgrading@ufv.ca or call for more information:	
Abbotsford campus, room A224 604-854-4578	
Chilliwack campus, room A1403 604-795-2807	
Hope Centre, room 101 604-869-9991	