



Mission College Information Competency Proficiency Exam Student Guide

What is Information Competency?

It is the ability to recognize when you need information and then be able to find, evaluate, and use that information effectively.

Purpose of Exam

The *Information Competency Proficiency Exam* tests students' information competency skills. Students who receive a score of at least 70% on this exam fulfill the Information Competency proficiency graduation requirement at Mission College.

Is There a Course at Mission College that Fulfills the Information Competency Requirement?

Yes. Students who are unable to pass the proficiency exam can take the one-unit course *Library 10: Basic Information Competency*. Passing this course fulfills the Information Competency proficiency graduation requirement at Mission College. For information about *Library 10* go to <http://www.missioncollege.org/lib/librarycourses.html>.

When and Where the Exam is Given

The exam is administered in the Assessment Center on the Mission College Campus (Main Building E1-101). Students do not need to make an appointment. Please refer to the Assessment Center Web page for the hours of operation or call the Assessment Center office at 408.855.5099.

What to Take With You on Test Day

Please bring your Mission College ID Card, or if you do not have that, please bring any form of picture ID and your Social Security Card. There is no charge for the exam.

Testing Regulations

Students currently enrolled in *Library 10 Basic Information Competency* are not eligible to take the exam. Students may take the exam up to two times per year.

Notebooks, dictionaries, calculators, cell phones, pagers, and PDAs are not allowed in the Assessment Center. Furthermore, anyone who gives or receives help during the exam will not be permitted to continue the exam. Students will not be allowed to access personal email on the Assessment Center computers. Following the exam, no exam material or notes may be removed from the room.

The Assessment Center has an *MLA Style* resource available for students to use during the exam. Also, students may use the Internet to access resources.

Special Arrangements for Disabled Students

If you have a disability that will prevent you from taking the exam under standard conditions, you may request special accommodations. Please contact the Disability Instructional Support Center (DISC) at (408) 855-5085 or TTY (408) 727-9243 to schedule an appointment.

Exam Results

Results will be available in the Assessment Center 10 days after the exam. Current picture identification is required when receiving exam results. No results will be given over the phone or via email.

Description of Exam

The exam is worth 100 points and there are four parts. Parts 1 & 2 include 22 multiple choice, True/False, or fill-in-the-blank questions worth 2 points each. Parts 3 & 4 include eight essay questions worth 7 points each. Parts 2 – 4 require Internet use. Students will be required to evaluate and create a MLA bibliographic citation for at least three different types of resources. The exam has a 90 minute time limit.

Preparation for the Exam

For study resources on the topics covered by the *Information Competency Proficiency Exam*, refer to the following online tutorials:

- **Information Competency Tutorial from Santa Ana College**
(<http://www.sac.edu/rsccdasp/InformationCompetency/>) – A set of online lessons designed to provide students with a resource for learning about the research process, and how to locate information in a library or in an online environment.
- **OASIS from San Francisco State University** (<http://oasis.sfsu.edu>) – A set of online lessons designed for students to improve their skills at finding, using, and evaluating information of all kinds.
- **Bruin Success with Less Stress from UCLA**
(<http://www.library.ucla.edu/bruinsuccess/>) – A set of online modules designed to help students learn about academic integrity, citing sources, and intellectual property.
- **The Internet Detective: Wise Up to the Web from The Institute for Learning and Research Technology, University of Bristol, UK**
(<http://www.vts.intute.ac.uk/detective>) – An online tutorial designed to help students learn to evaluate the Web. Please note that this is a UK tutorial so you will notice spelling and grammar that is not commonly used in American English.
- Also refer to the following Mission College Library handouts: ***Evaluating Books and Articles*** and ***Evaluating Web Pages***. Both are available in the Library and at <http://www.missioncollege.org/lib/handouts.html>.