

Ability to Benefit (ATB) FAQ

Congratulation on your decision to further your education! The education you gain at Los Angeles Southwest College will open a world of opportunities.

The Assessment Center has put together this reference sheet in order to answer your questions regarding the Ability to Benefit Test. If you have any further questions or require additional assistance, please feel free to stop by our office (SSC, Rm 210).

Q: Do I have to take the Ability to Benefit (ATB) Test?

A: The ATB is *not required to attend* Los Angeles Southwest College. However, if you do not have a high school diploma or GED, you must pass the ATB to be eligible for federal financial aid.

Q: What is the Ability to Benefit (ATB) test? What scores do I need to pass?

A: The ATB is a computerized test that measures the following three (3) areas: Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills, and Arithmetic. The ATB test is multiple-choice and not timed, however allow yourself at least two hours for testing since *you must take and pass the entire test in one sitting*. To pass you must score at least 55 in reading comprehension, 60 in Sentence Skills, and 34 in arithmetic.

Q: Do I need an appointment to take the ATB Test? What should I bring to the test?

A: NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED! The ATB test is FREE and offered on a WALK-IN basis at the Assessment Center (SSC Room 210). Please note that the *last test is always given 2 hours prior to closing*. Bring a photo ID. **You will not be allowed to test without a photo ID.**

Q: How many times can I take the ATB test?

A: You may take the Ability to Benefit Test Two (2) times per Semester but must wait at least 30 days before retesting.

Q: What resources are available to help me improve my score?

A: GREAT QUESTION! At Los Angeles Southwest College our main goal is to help you succeed. Please visit the following:

*For Reading Comprehension & Sentence Skills tutorials and assistance

*Center for Academic & Workforce Excellence (LASC Library, 3rd Floor)

*Learning Resource Center (LASC Library, 2nd Floor)

*For Arithmetic tutorials and assistance—Math Connection Lab- Tech 185

Q: I didn't pass the Ability to Benefit test does this mean I shouldn't apply for financial aid?

Although, you are currently not eligible to receive federal financial aid, you should still make sure to submit all financial aid paperwork on time. This will help minimize delays once you pass the test. Also, remember to turn in a Board of Governors Fee Waiver Application to the Financial Aid Office (SSC room 110). You don't need to pass the ATB to qualify for a fee waiver.