

**DMACC TESTING MEMORIES FROM 2005 THROUGH 2021**

By Diana Birkenholtz

Current DMACC Testing Centers information can be found on the website:

<https://www.dmacc.edu/testingcenter/Pages/welcome.aspx>

**DMACC Testing Centers**

- West Des Moines Testing Center
- Ames Hunziker Testing Center
- Ankeny Testing Center
- Boone Testing Center
- Carroll Testing Center
- Newton Testing Center
- Southridge Testing Center

“DMACC uses assessment scores of new students to provide information about students’ academic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. Assessment information is used in course selection, course planning, and math placement. Students wishing to take a math class are required to take ALEKS math as a math placement requirement. “

Test offerings and requirements have changed since I retired in July of 2021, so please contact the website above for current information.

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<https://dmacc.edu/testingcenter/Pages/acsouthridge.aspx>.

Southridge Testing Center  
1111 E Army Post Road  
Des Moines, IA 50315

515 287 8720

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I was hired as a Test Examiner in August of 2005 to work at the DMACC Porter Avenue southside office where we offered a variety of tests for the students.

Once the Southridge office opened on August 23, 2013, at 1111 E Army Post Road in the remodeled Penney’s building at the Southridge Mall, testing was transferred to that location. I offered 26 different tests organized through the college requirements for students as well as outside entities that held contractual agreements with DMACC. The test centers work closely with the Iowa Department of Education, DMACC Academic Advisors as well as other departments at DMACC.

Under the direction of the college requirements and the State of Iowa, I completed the required training certificates to test students. Student tests included Accuplacer offered by the College Board, ACT, ALEKS, ATI TEAS Admission Assessment, CLEP, Challenge, GED, HSED (High School Equivalency Diploma), HiSet, CASAS, Campus Security, IDALS Pesticides for Chemical Applicators, Iowa Plumber, Journeyperson, HVAC/Refrigeration Licensing, and LASSI Learning and Study Strategies. We also offered a testing location to administer Instructors’ makeup tests for students.

During, those years I also tested in person in other locations such as Ankeny Campus, Urban Campus, West Des Moines Campus, Ames Hunziker Center, Polk County Jail, Newton Correctional Facilities, and the Women’s Prison in Mitchellville until March of 2020 when the Test Centers closed due to the Covid pandemic. The test centers then offered remote computerized testing until reopening in 2021. I administered tests until my retirement on July 1, 2021.

The Continuing Education Department offered the NRAO (CNA) Certified Nurse Assistant written test as well as the WebEtest (aka, computerized remote testing) that became required during the pandemic. I also was involved in remote testing for those students. Students who passed the exam requirements would register for their certificate via The Iowa Direct Care Worker Registry and would be able to access their records via [www.dia-hfd.state.ia.us](http://www.dia-hfd.state.ia.us). Current information can be obtained by contacting 515.256.4908.

I always felt that my job was important for the students, and I was especially fulfilled watching the students graduate. The cap throw was a treat as I watched the graduates celebrate.

More historical information can be obtained via the website at:

<https://dmacc.edu/prospectivestudents/Pages/history.aspx>

Test offerings and requirements have changed since I retired in July of 2021, so please contact the website for up-to-date information. <https://www.dmacc.edu/testingcenter/Pages/welcome.aspx>.