

# MELAB

## Frequently Asked Questions

<p><b>What is the MELAB?</b></p>	<p>The <b>Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)</b> is an advanced-level battery of English language proficiency tests for adult nonnative speakers of English who need to use English for academic purposes at the college and university level. It is mainly for students applying to universities in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, where the language of instruction is English. MELAB scores are also used for certification of English proficiency for various organizations and licensing professionals.</p>
<p><b>How do I prepare for the MELAB?</b></p>	<p>There are many ways to prepare for the MELAB, but the best preparation is through the general study and use of English. Sample test items are available on the MELAB website.</p>
<p><b>What's on the MELAB?</b></p>	<p><b>Composition</b> You write an essay based upon one of two topic choices.</p> <p><b>Listening</b> You answer questions in your test booklet while listening to an audio CD. This part of the test has several kinds of problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You hear a question, which is accompanied by three printed answer choices. You choose a reasonable answer to the question you hear.</li> <li>• You hear a statement, which is accompanied by three printed answer choices. You choose the answer that means about the same thing as what you hear.</li> <li>• You hear a short conversation, and then you choose, from the three answer choices in your test booklet, the one that means about the same thing as what you hear.</li> </ul> <p><b>Grammar</b> You see an incomplete sentence followed by a choice of words or phrases to complete it. Only one choice is grammatically correct.</p> <p><b>Cloze</b> You read an incomplete sentence followed by a choice of words to complete it. Only one word has the correct meaning in that context.</p> <p><b>Vocabulary</b> You read an incomplete sentence followed by a choice of words to complete it. Only one word has the correct meaning in that context.</p> <p><b>Reading</b> You will read four passages, each of which are followed by comprehension questions.</p> <p><b>Speaking (optional)</b> You have a fifteen-minute conversation with the local examiner. The speaking test is required for some candidates seeking professional certification or admission to some university programs. The speaking test is not available at all test centers.</p>

<p><b>How is the MELAB scored?</b></p>	<p>Your final score on the MELAB is the average of your scores on composition, listening, and grammar/cloze/vocabulary/reading. The speaking test is not averaged with the other parts of the test.</p> <p>The speaking and writing sections are graded according to scales established by Cambridge–Michigan Language Assessments. The speaking rating is assigned by trained local examiners. The writing section rating is assigned by specialized raters in the United States trained by Cambridge–Michigan Language Assessments. All writing tests are scored by at least two raters.</p> <p>The listening and grammar/cloze/vocabulary/reading (GCVR) section scores are determined by automated scoring by computer at the University of Michigan.</p> <p>Your listening and GCVR scores are based on the number of questions you answered correctly in each of those sections. This is then equated to a number on a scale that takes into consideration levels of difficulty of the different versions of both the listening section and the GCVR section.</p>
<p><b>When do I receive my results?</b></p>	<p>Tests are processed within six weeks after the MELAB Testing Program receives the tests from the test center. Scores are then sent by First Class mail to the institutions requested, which receive the reports within seven to eight weeks after you took the test.</p> <p>If you need your results to reach the institutions earlier, you can request a rush service for an additional fee. In most cases, this means that your official MELAB scores will be received at the institution you requested in ten or eleven days from the test date.</p>
<p><b>How do I receive my results?</b></p>	<p>When an examinee takes the MELAB, two different reports are sent out: official score reports, which are sent to the indicated institutions, and unofficial score reports, which are sent to the examinee.</p> <p>Score reports include scores of performance on parts 1 (writing), 2 (listening), and 3 (GCVR) of the MELAB. Scores on parts 1, 2, and 3 are then averaged to produce a MELAB final score. If you took the optional speaking test, the speaking score is also reported on the score report.</p>
<p><b>What if I have a disability?</b></p>	<p>We want you to be able to demonstrate your language ability under circumstances that are fair and equitable. If you have a disability, you can request special accommodations, which may include changes in the format or the administration of the test.</p>
<p><b>When can I take the MELAB?</b></p>	<p>The MELAB is offered throughout the year, and you can take the MELAB up to six times a year. Contact your local test center for more information.</p>

To learn more about the MELAB and other University of Michigan exams, visit the Cambridge–Michigan Language Assessments website.

[www.CambridgeMichigan.org](http://www.CambridgeMichigan.org)

*For specific information about test dates, registration procedures, and test fees in your area, contact your local test center.*

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