

Mathematics Placement

This letter provides information for all students about placement into mathematics courses at the University of Kentucky. During the conference, your advisor will be able to answer questions which are specific to your major. Some additional information about placement is available at <http://www.math.uky.edu/undergrad/placement>

We are committed to placing every entering student in a course at the appropriate level that will prepare them for their chosen major. Our main tools for placement are the mathematics ACT or SAT score and a placement examination that will be offered during the advising conference. Detailed prerequisites may be found in the University course catalog; however, we summarize the guidelines for placement for convenience. Students entering with some college credit will need to refer to the bulletin to determine their placement.

<i>Mathematics Course</i>	<i>Math ACT</i>	<i>Math SAT</i>
MA 108R, Intermediate Algebra	18 or below	450 or below
MA 111, Intro. Contemp. Math.	19 or above	460 or above
MA 109, College Algebra	21 or above	510 or above
MA 112, Trigonometry	21 or above*	510 or above*
MA 110, Analytic Geom. and Trig.	23 or above	540 or above
MA 123, Elementary Calculus	26 or above	600 or above
MA 113, Calculus I	27 or above	620 or above

*Pending approval by the University Senate.

Comments:

1. Students who have not taken Algebra II in high school should take MA 108R.
2. Students who enroll in MA 113 should have completed one year of high-school mathematics past Algebra II that includes the study of trigonometry. Typically, students take pre-calculus after Algebra II.
3. Many students find that they are placed in a course that repeats material they studied in high-school. While this may be disappointing, a strong foundation in mathematics should be beneficial in subsequent mathematics courses and courses that use mathematics.

Who should take a placement examination?

We believe that all students who plan to take a mathematics course should take a placement examination. We encourage all transfer students to take the placement examination. ***The College of Engineering requests that all of their entering students take a placement examination.*** A placement examination is mandatory for all students with a Math ACT score of 26 or below. The examination will provide additional information to the student and the advisor to help determine the proper placement. The exam may give a student the option of entering a more advanced mathematics course.

Which placement examination should I take?

We will offer two examinations. An Algebra pre-test and a Calculus pre-test. Each exam is twenty multiple-choice questions and covers the material that a student should master before entering one of our courses. Students who have a Math ACT sub-score of 22 or below should take the Algebra pre-test in order to determine if they are eligible for MA 108R, 111, 109 or 110. Students with a Math ACT sub-score of 23 or above should take the Calculus pre-test in order to determine if they are eligible for MA 110, MA 123 or MA 113.

May I use a calculator on the placement examination?

Students may use a calculator that does not have symbolic manipulation capabilities and meets the ACT calculator policy (see <http://www.actstudent.org/faq/answers/calculator.html>). Students who wish to use a calculator must bring a calculator with them to the examination. Calculators will not be provided.

What are the mathematics requirements at the University of Kentucky?

All students at UK must fulfill the requirements of the University Studies Program (USP) and the requirements of his or her major. Students may take a mathematics course because the course satisfies the USP mathematics requirement or a major requirement. Students may also choose to take a mathematics course to satisfy a USP inference-logic requirement. The inference-logic requirement may also be fulfilled by courses in logic and statistics. These requirements are detailed in the University Bulletin (<http://www.uky.edu/Registrar/bulletinCurrent/toc2.htm>).

What course should I take?

Most entering students will take one of the following courses. We urge students to take the most advanced course for which they meet the placement guidelines. This will give the most flexibility in choosing a major.

MA 108R, Intermediate Algebra. This course covers the material that is typically taught in Algebra II and will help prepare a student to begin the study of college-level mathematics. Students entering with Math ACT 19 or 20 may use this course to prepare for MA 109.

MA 111, Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics. This course satisfies the USP mathematics requirement, but is not a prerequisite for any other mathematics course.

MA 109, College Algebra. This course satisfies the USP mathematics requirement and helps to prepare students for our Calculus courses.

MA 112, Trigonometry. Students who plan to continue to MA 113 may take MA 109 and 112 together to prepare for MA 113.

MA 110, Analytic geometry and trigonometry. This is our pre-calculus course and prepares students for MA 113. This course is four credit hours, while MA 109 +112 requires five credit hours.

MA 123, Elementary Calculus. A brief calculus course that satisfies the USP mathematics requirement, the inference-logic requirement and is part of the major requirements for several majors in the biological sciences and economics.

MA 113, Calculus I. A four or five hour calculus course that satisfies the mathematics requirement, the inference-logic requirement and is part of the major requirements for many majors in the sciences and engineering, and may usually be substituted for MA 123. Students who enroll in MA 113 are encouraged to take the supplemental workshop, MA 193.