

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Mathematics
University of South Carolina

Mathematics Placement Program

Summer/Fall 2017—Spring 2018

Guide to the Mathematics Placement Test

Course prerequisites for MATH courses at UofSC are enforced. Some prerequisites are stated in terms of a suitable score on the Mathematics Placement Test (MPT). Others involve successfully completing another MATH course with a C or better. Prerequisite overrides will be given only in instances after a student documents his/her qualifications for a course (for example, by bringing to LeConte 413 an appropriate AP score report or a transcript from another school).

Access to the test is restricted to individuals with a valid UofSC network username and password. To find your username, and to reset the password, go to my.sc.edu, then click “Login and Password Help.”

Contact Us

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“The Department of Mathematics at the University of South Carolina provides and maintains mathematics tests for placement in college-level MATH courses at UofSC. These tests allow incoming students—new freshmen, transfer, or returning students—to gauge how their math skills translate into collegiate MATH courses.”

F.J. Blanco-Silva

Math Placement Program coordinator

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial a} \ln f_{a, \sigma^2}(\xi_1) = \frac{(\xi_1 - a)}{\sigma^2}$$
$$\int T(x) \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(x, \theta) dx = M \left(T(x) \right)$$
$$\int T(x) \cdot \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \ln L(x, \theta) \right) \cdot f(x, \theta) dx =$$

Do I need to take the Math Placement Test?

Look at the Carolina Core Analytical Reasoning and Problem-Solving (ARP) requirements of your program in the Undergraduate Bulletin at bulletin.sc.edu. There are two cases:

No mandatory MATH courses. Some programs do not have any MATH courses listed in their ARP. Other programs have MATH courses listed in their ARP requirements, but they are not mandatory. If you plan to take any foundational MATH course at the 100-level, but have not successfully completed an appropriate pre-requisite course, then you probably have to take the MPT. Consult with your advisor.

Mandatory MATH courses. If you do not have credit for the mandatory courses listed in your ARP requirements, or you have not successfully completed an appropriate pre-requisite course, then you have to take the MPT.

How do I get credit for MATH courses?

There are currently three ways:

1. Take the course (and pass it!).
2. **Transfer credit from another institution.** To determine how your transfer work might come through on your USC record, consult the Transfer Equivalency Tables hosted by the registrar at registrar.sc.edu
3. **AP/IB/CLEP scores.** To determine if your scores on these tests result in credit for MATH courses, consult with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

What are the pre-requisite courses for the MATH courses?

A score of C or better is required on each pre-requisite course listed below.

Course	Pre-requisite
MATH 115	MATH 111 or 111i
MATH 122	MATH 111 or 111i
MATH 141	MATH112 or 115 or 116
MATH 142	MATH141
MATH 170	MATH 111 or 111i
MATH 172	MATH 122 or 141
MATH 174	MATH 111 or 111i
MATH 221	MATH 111 or 111i
MATH 241	MATH142
MATH 242	MATH142

I am starting at UofSC, and I need to take the MPT. How and when do I take it?

The MPT is a 90-minute, multiple-choice test available online at www.math.sc.edu/assess

It is recommended that you take it at least two weeks prior to orientation. No special arrangement is needed, but we do recommend a reliable computer and internet connection for the duration of the test.

Which version should I take?

The rule of thumb is:

Algebra version for MATH 122, PreCalculus version for MATH 141.

If your program requires only MATH 141, take the PreCalculus version. If the program requires only MATH 122, take the Algebra version.

If your program allows you to choose between those two courses and you are undecided, we advise you to take both versions.

What MPT score do I need to take a MATH course?

The following table indicates the version and scores needed for the different MATH courses.

Course	MPT	Score
MATH 111i	Algebra	4-7 points
MATH 111	Algebra	8-13 points
MATH 115	PreCalculus	7-18 points
MATH 122 (either version)	Algebra	14-26 points
	PreCalculus	19-33 points
MATH 141	PreCalculus	19-33 points
MATH 170 (either version)	Algebra	14-26 points
	PreCalculus	19-33 points
MATH 174 (either version)	Algebra	14-26 points
	PreCalculus	19-33 points
MATH 221 (either version)	Algebra	14-26 points
	PreCalculus	19-33 points

Can I retake the MPT if I didn't obtain the score I needed?

Yes! You have to wait at least 7 days before retaking the same version of the MPT. You can take each version of the MPT up to three times. Each time you take a test, the questions will be different. While a complete record of each time you take the MPT will be stored in Self-Service Carolina (SSC), only the most recent score will be used to determine your eligibility for classes.

I did take the MPT but the score does not appear in SSC.

Scores are uploaded daily—except for weekends and holidays. If your score does not appear in SSC within 2-3 business days, contact us by email at assess@math.sc.edu. Make sure to include your name, UofSC Network username, date and version of the MPT.