The Department of Mathematics at the University of South Carolina provides and maintains mathematics tests for placement in college-level math courses at USC. These tests allow each incoming student – new freshman, transfer student, or returning student – to gauge how his or her math skills translate into collegiate math courses. Each student’s test is different. The specific questions on each student’s MPT are chosen randomly from a test bank.

The web address for the MPT is http://assess.math.sc.edu/

This website includes links to additional information, including practice tests and online tutorials.

The URL for a more extensive FAQ list on the MPT website is available at http://assess.math.sc.edu/public/faq.html

Additional information can be obtained by calling (803) 777-5313 or by sending e-mail to assess@math.sc.edu.

Contact Us

Department of Mathematics
Undergraduate Office
LeConte College, Room 413
Columbia, SC 29208

803.777.5313
assess@math.sc.edu

Visit us on the Web:
http://assess.math.sc.edu/
Which MPT Do I Take?

The test you need to take depends on your major at USC. In general, students pursuing a degree in engineering, science, mathematics, statistics, computer science, secondary education, or public health need to take the Precalculus MPT; all others should take the Algebra MPT. This is discussed in more detail on the MPT website before you have to select the test you will take.

These 90-minute tests will help you and your advisor determine your readiness for college math courses at USC. The Algebra MPT covers basic high school Algebra II; the Precalculus MPT covers Pre-Calculus, including Trigonometry. The Algebra MPT test has 26 questions and the Precalculus MPT has 33 questions. All questions are multiple choice. Each correct answer counts as 1 point; there is no penalty for incorrect answers. At the completion of the test, the student is given their raw score and results.

* Access to the actual tests is restricted to individuals with a valid USC network username and password. To find your username, and to reset the password, logon to VIP (http://vip.sc.edu/) and click on the Technology tab.

Interpretation of Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Raw Score (out of 26)</th>
<th>Recommended MATH Course</th>
<th>Additional information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 3</td>
<td>Developmental Algebra</td>
<td>Not offered at USC; consider taking it at local tech school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 - 7</td>
<td>MATH 111I</td>
<td>Prepared to complete course with C or better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 -13</td>
<td>MATH 111</td>
<td>Prepared to complete course with C or better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 - 26</td>
<td>MATH 122 MATH 170 MATH 221</td>
<td>Prepared to complete any of these courses with C or better</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Algebra MPT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Raw Score (out of 33)</th>
<th>Recommended MATH Course</th>
<th>Additional information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 6</td>
<td>Developmental Algebra</td>
<td>Not offered at USC; consider taking it at local tech school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 - 18</td>
<td>MATH 115</td>
<td>Prepared to complete course with C or better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 - 33</td>
<td>MATH 141 (MATH 122, if your degree program accepts)</td>
<td>Prepared to complete course with C or better</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Precalculus MPT

Frequently Asked Question

1. Can I retake the MPT?
   Yes. You have to wait at least 7 days before retaking the same MPT, but you do not have to wait to take the other version of the MPT. You may take the same version of the MPT, with different questions, up to three times. While a complete record of each time you take the MPT will be recorded in Self-Service Carolina (SSC), only the most recent score will be used to determine your eligibility for classes.

2. I took the MPT. Why can't I register for a MATH class?
   Scores are uploaded daily – except for weekends and holidays. If your score does not appear on SSC within 2-3 business days, contact the MPT Director by e-mail (assess@math.sc.edu). Be sure to include your name, USC network username, the version of the MPT that you took, and the date you took the MPT.

3. Orientation this week. Is it too late to take the MPT?
   No! Since it takes up to 2-3 business days to process your score, take the MPT as soon as possible. Bring a copy of your MPT score report to Orientation. Note that you may not be able to register for a MATH course until your MPT appears in SSC.

4. How do I obtain an MPT score report?
   This report is presented at the end of the test. You can also go back into the MPT website, select the appropriate version and click “Results” instead of “Start Test”. Note that this will show the results of your most recent attempt.

5. I am taking or have taken a MATH course at another college, do I still need to take the MPT?
   It depends. You have to meet the prerequisite for any USC Math course that you take. If your transfer credits are not on your official USC transcript, you may need to take the MPT. See also the answer to FAQ 7.

6. I am taking AP Calculus. Do I have to take the MPT?
   Again, it depends. You can't register for a MATH course at USC until you meet that course’s prerequisites. If you want to register for MATH 142, 172, or 241 (if you have taken Calculus BC) you will need to request a prerequisite override (see FAQ 7). The list of AP / IB credits accepted at USC can be found at http://tinyurl.com/osx7dlp .

7. What is a prerequisite override?
   A prerequisite override is special permission allowing a student who has not met the prerequisites of a course to register for that course. They are issued only when there is tangible evidence that the prerequisite will be met before the start of the semester when the course will be taken.

8. How do I request a prerequisite override?
   Contact the Undergraduate Office. Be prepared to provide evidence that you are on a path to fulfill the prerequisites before the start of the class you wish to take at USC. Note that your final eligibility for the course will be checked again before the start of classes.