

Mathematics Placement Information

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Mathematics placement levels: how they are determined and what they mean

Level 80 (old level 1b)

Criteria: Score of 4 or higher on the AP Calculus BC exam, transfer credit for MA122, or successful Challenge Test for MA122 .

May take: MA201, MA222, MA251 (specific recommendation depends on major).

May not take: MA011, MA105, MA110, MA117, MA121.

Level 70 (old level 1a)

Criteria: Score of 4 or higher on the AP Calculus AB exam (or BC exam subscore), transfer credit for MA121, or successful Challenge Test for MA121.

May take: MA121, MA251 (specific recommendation depends on major).

May not take: MA011, MA105, MA110, MA117.

Level 60 (old level 2b)

Criteria: Passing score on the Calculus Readiness Test, and no higher level criteria fulfilled.

May take: MA117, MA121, MA251 (specific recommendation depends on major).

May not take: MA011, MA105, MA110.

Level 50 (old level 2a)

Not currently used.

Level 40 (old level 3b)

Criteria: Grade of B or better in high school Algebra II course and SATM score of at least 580, or passing grade in any high school Calculus course, and no higher level criteria fulfilled.

May take: MA110, MA117, MA251 (specific recommendation depends on major).

May not take: MA011, MA105, MA121.

Level 30 (old level 3a)

Criteria: Grade of B or better in high school Algebra II course and SATM score less than 580, or passing grade lower than B in Algebra II and SATM score of at least 500, and no higher level criteria fulfilled.

May take: MA105, MA110, MA251 (specific recommendation depends on major).

May not take: MA011, MA117, MA121.

Level 20 (old level 4b)

Criteria: Grade lower than B in high school Algebra II course and SATM score at least 450 but less than 500, and no higher level criteria fulfilled.

May take: MA011, MA105 (specific recommendation depends on major).

May not take: Any mathematics course other than MA105 until MA011 passed with a grade of C- or better, or Basic Algebra placement exam passed.

Level 10 (old level 4a)

Criteria: Grade lower than B in high school Algebra II course and SATM score less than 450, and no higher level criteria.

May take: MA011.

May not take: Any other mathematics course until MA011 passed with a grade of C- or better (or Basic Algebra placement exam passed).

How to use the “Recommended First Mathematics Course” Chart

- Find the column corresponding to your mathematics placement level (this should be a two-digit number between 10 and 80, reported on your Placement and Scheduling Information sheet).
- Find the row corresponding to your intended major.
- Where your row and column intersect is the course number (MA011, MA105, MA110, MA117, MA121, MA122, MA201, MA222, or MA251) of the mathematics course you are recommended to take first (i.e., before you take any other mathematics course), followed by a timing code indicating when the course should be taken (FFY = Fall of First Year, FY= either semester of First Year, SY=either semester of Second Year). (In most cases it is not wise to postpone the first mathematics course beyond the second year.)
- Note that different majors have different recommended courses, even for the same placement level. If you change your intended major or are considering multiple majors, use the chart to determine the recommended first course(s) for the new major(s). Discuss the situation with your academic advisor(s), and if questions arise, consult the Chair of Mathematical and Computer Sciences.
- Note also that not all recommended first mathematics courses are Core courses. The recommendations are based on the level of mathematical preparation associated with each

placement level as well as the particular requirements of the various majors. For some combinations of placement level and major, it is necessary to take a non-Core mathematics course prior to taking a Core mathematics course.

Additional Considerations

- 1) **All incoming students whose intended major requires MA121** (Calculus I) or who want to take MA121 for any other reason (and have not obtained credit for MA121 via AP exam, transfer, or Challenge Test) are required to take the Calculus Readiness Test (offered online, and in paper format on campus). Students who obtain a satisfactory score on the CRT will be assigned Level 60 placement. There is no fee for the Calculus Readiness Test, but there is a fee for obtaining credit for MA121 or MA122 via Challenge Test, as per the College Catalog. Students who need or want to take MA121 and do not obtain a satisfactory score on the CRT can earn Level 60 placement by passing MA110 with a grade of C- or higher.
- 2) **Students with Level 10 or Level 20 placement** can obtain Level 30 placement by taking and passing MA011 with a grade of C- or better, or with a passing score on the Basic Algebra placement test, offered on request without fee (currently only available in paper format on campus).
- 3) Course descriptions for the various mathematics courses can be found in the online [College Catalog](#). It is important to note that level of difficulty increases with course number, **except** in the case of MA251, the difficulty level of which falls between that of MA110 and MA117.
- 4) MA110 is no longer a Core course; its main purpose is now to prepare students for MA121.
- 5) Further questions about mathematics placement can be addressed to James Hughes, Chair of Mathematical and Computer Sciences, at hughesjr@etown.edu.