

Mathematics Placement

Students will be permitted to enroll in mathematics classes based on a prerequisite course, their VSU Math Index (VMI), or a mathematics placement exam as follows:

Course	Prerequisites	VMI Level	Placement Exam Score
Math 1101	None	1	0 – 55
Math 1111	None	1	0 – 55
Math 1112	Math 1111 with C or Better	2	56 – 65
Math 1261	Math 1111 or Math 1101 with C or Better	2	56 – 65
Math 1113	Math 1112 with C or Better	3	66 – 75
Math 1113H*	Math 1112 with C or Better	3	66 – 75
Math 2261	Math 1112 or Math 1113 with C or Better	4	76 – 100

*Math 1113H requires admission to the Honors College

VSU MATH INDEX PLACEMENT

Based on admission data, most admitted students will be assigned a VSU Math Index (VMI). The index is used to assign an appropriate level for an entry (first) mathematics course. Students without a VSU Math Index are assigned to Level 1. (Exception students that are required to take the COMPASS exam.) The registration system will allow students to register for any course listed within their level in Table 2 below.

Level 1. MATH 1101, MATH 1111

Level 2. MATH 1101, MATH 1111, MATH 1112, MATH 1261

Level 3. MATH 1101, MATH 1111, MATH 1112, MATH 1261, MATH 1113, MATH 1113H

Level 4. MATH 1101, MATH 1111, MATH 1112, MATH 1261, MATH 1113, MATH 1113H, MATH 2261

Most fields of study at VSU require math entry at Level 1. However, for some fields of study, especially for science, math, computer science and pre-engineering programs, entry above Level 1 may be advantageous.

Who is assigned a VSU Math Index?

Most admitted students will have a VSU Math Index. Students with complete VSU admissions data (SAT or ACT scores, etc.) are assigned a VSU Math Index.

Who is not assigned a VSU Math Index?

Students with incomplete VSU admissions data, such as missing SAT / ACT scores, are not assigned a VSU Math Index. For example, students that are required to take the COMPASS exam (students who have not been in school or college for 5 years) and international students who have not submitted SAT scores do not have a VSU Math Index.

When is the VSU Math Index assigned?

The VSU Math Index is assigned after you are admitted to VSU. The index is updated when more recent data, such as newer SAT scores, is received.

When will you be notified of your math placement level?

All students will be notified of their placement level after they are admitted.

What you need to do

- If you are satisfied with your placement level, then discuss with your advisor the mathematics requirement for your chosen major in order to select the best starting mathematics course.
- If you are not satisfied with your placement level and want to try to improve it, then take the placement exam (see below).

PLACEMENT EXAM

Who does not have to take the math placement exam?

- Students who have met the prerequisite math requirement.
- Students who are satisfied with their VSU Math Index placement level.
- Students who have completed their core math requirement.
- Students who only need to take MATH 1101 or MATH 1111 to meet their core math requirement.
- Students without a VSU Math Index who do not take the placement exam are assigned to Level 1. (Exception students that are required to take the COMPASS exam.)

Who has to take the math placement exam?

- Students without enough admission data to produce a VSU Math Index (such as international students and nontraditional students) and who want to take a math course other than MATH 1101 or MATH 1111.
- Students who are dissatisfied with their placement level as determined by the VSU Math Index.
- Transfer students who do not meet the prerequisites for the desired entry-level math course.

How to take the math placement exam

- The placement exam is an online exam.
- First go to <http://ww2.valdosta.edu/it/eas/sis/> to login to Banner, click on the tab "New Student Portal" then click on the button "Take the Placement Exam".
- The cost of the online placement exam and learning software is \$25.
- At the end of the placement exam, you will immediately receive your score online. Return to Table 1 above in order to use your score to determine your placement level.
- After taking the placement exam, your score will be reported to the VSU Banner registration system within 24 hours, which will make you eligible to register for any of the course in your placement level.

When must the placement exam be taken?

- In order to be properly advised at on-campus orientation, the placement exam must be completed one week prior to your scheduled orientation.
- In order to register for a math class other than Level 1, the placement exam must be completed at least two business days prior to the first day of class.

Where to take the placement exam

- You can take the placement exam at any location where you have internet access on a computer.

Information about the placement exam software

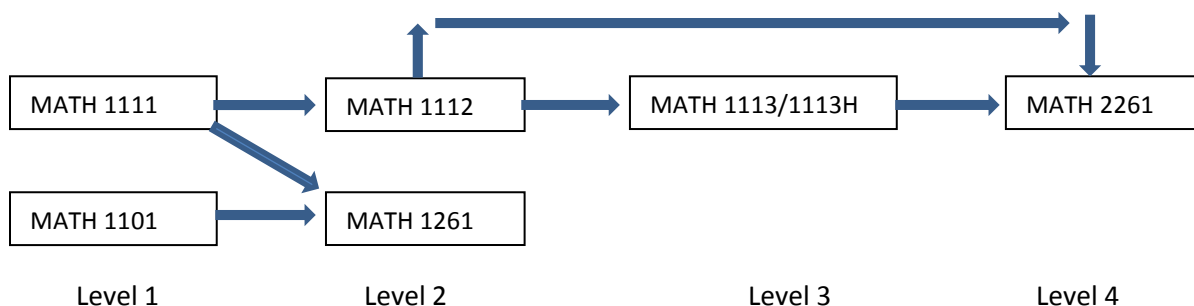
- The placement exam may be taken up to three times.
- Each placement exam attempt may also be used as a diagnostic exam to identify your particular strengths and weaknesses for college-level math.
- The online placement software provides up to six weeks of individualized online tutorials.
- Do not use your own calculator when taking the placement exam. The software will provide you with an on-screen calculator as needed.
- Typically the exam takes 60 – 90 minutes to complete.
- The maximum time allowed to complete the placement exam is 24 hours.
- One must wait a minimum of 24 hours between placement exam attempts. During the time between attempts, it is highly recommended that you take full advantage of the online tutorial system.

Honor Code

Since this exam is taken online, the student is expected to adhere to the instructions. The VSU Honor Code will be in place. When taking the exam online the student should honor the instructions and not receive outside help; this would only result in misplacement into a course in which the student is not yet prepared to succeed.

Prerequisite Flow Chart

Diagram 1. Entry Level Mathematics Courses with Prerequisite Flow*



*All prerequisite courses require a "C" or higher.

FAQs

1. If I am a transfer student, do I need to take the placement exam?

Answer: Not necessarily. As long as you have satisfactorily completed and received transfer credit for a core-mathematics course, then you may proceed according to the prerequisite flow above. For example, if as a transfer student you received credit for MATH 1111 with a C, then you may enter MATH 1112 in Diagram 1. However, if you would want to skip ahead to MATH 1113, then the placement exam would be necessary to see whether you are ready to skip the prerequisite and successfully complete this course.

2. If I took and passed AP Precalculus, do I still need to take the placement exam?

Answer: No, as long as you have received college-credit for an equivalent course, you may enter the Diagram 1 at the appropriate point.

3. I took AP calculus in high school, but did not pass the AP exam. I am ready to take Calculus (Math 2261), but my VSU Math Index has me at Level 2 and I cannot register for calculus. How can I register for calculus?

Answer: If you are not satisfied with your placement, then you can take the online placement exam in order to try to get a higher placement.

4. I took and passed the CLEP exam to receive college credit for a core math class. Do I still need to take the placement exam?

Answer: No, as long as you received college credit for the course, you do not need to take the placement exam. You enter Diagram 1 at the appropriate point.

5. I placed at Level 2, but I need to take MATH 1113 for my major. What should I do?

Answer: MATH 1111 (Level 1) combined with MATH 1112 (Level 2) is equivalent to MATH 1113 (Level 3). Placement at Level 2 indicates that you have a sufficient knowledge of Level 1 (MATH 1111). Upon successful completion of MATH 1112, you have met the MATH 1113 requirement and are the ready to take MATH 2261 (Calculus I). See Diagram 1 for the different routes to MATH 2261 (Calculus I).

6. If I retake the SAT, will this affect my placement?

Answer: Possibly since the math score on the SAT/ACT is a component of the VSU Math Index. In this case, your VSU Math Index will automatically be updated; only your highest score will be used.

7. Although I have been placed, can I still use ALEKS online tutoring to get ready for my math class?

Answer: Yes, once admitted, anyone can purchase the software and use any of its diagnostic/tutoring features.

8. I have been placed into Level 3, but my major only requires Level 1. What should I do?

Answer: Ultimately this is your decision. For example, if you are interested in graduate school, it may be helpful to start with a more challenging math course. You should discuss options with you advisor and research your field of study.

9. I missed the deadline to take the placement exam and register for the math class I need. What should I do?

Answer: You may register for MATH 1101 or MATH 1111 without taking the placement exam. To register for a Level 2, 3, or 4 course(s), you must achieve a proper score on the placement exam (see Table 1) prior to the deadline.

10. I placed at Level 4. Can I get college credit for a Level 1, 2, or 3, course?

Answer: To get credit for a lower level course, you must register for and successfully complete the course or successfully pass the CLEP exam for the course. CLEP exams are administered by the Office of Testing.

Useful Links

1. [Mathematics and CS Department](#)
2. [VSU Catalog and Honor Code](#)
3. [Office of Testing](#)