

Mathematics Placement

There are a number of complementary math placement systems in place at Valdosta State University.

- **LSM1 and LSM2** – Based on admission data, students will be assigned placement levels LSM1 and LSM2.
 - LSM1 score of 3 exempts students from the corequisite math course when taking MATH 1111
 - LSM2 score of 3 exempts students from the corequisite math course when taking MATH 1001, 1101, or 1401.
- **Math Placement Level (MPL)** – Based on admission data, students will also be assigned an MPL. The MPL will be used to determine if students may be placed higher than MATH 1111 (for programs that require the MATH 1111 pathway, such as STEM majors). (See [Table I](#))
- **Placement Exam** – Students may try to exempt corequisite support and increase their placement level by taking the ALEKS placement exam. (See [Table I](#))

Course	Prerequisites / Corequisite	Math Placement Level	Placement Exam Score
Math 1001/1101/1401/1111*	Corequisite Math 099X	MPL0	0 – 45
Math 1001/1101/1401/1111*	None	MPL1	46 – 55
Math 1112	Math 1111 with C or Better	MPL2	56 – 65
Math 1261	Math 1101 (or 1111, etc.) with C or Better	MPL2	56 – 65
Math 1113	Math 1112 with C or Better	MPL3	66 – 75
Math 1113H**	Math 1112 with C or Better	MPL3	66 – 75
Math 2261	Math 1112 or Math 1113 with C or Better	MPL4	76 – 100

Table I. Math course placement by MPL or Placement Exam

VSU MATH INDEX PLACEMENT

Based on admission data, most admitted students will be assigned a VSU Math Placement Level (MPL). The MPL is used to assign an appropriate level for an entry (first) mathematics course. Students without an MPL are assigned to Level MPL0. (Exception students that are required to take the COMPASS or Accuplacer exam and test into a higher Math Placement Level.) The registration system will allow students to register for any course listed within their level in [Table II](#) below.

- **MPL0:** MATH 1001, MATH 1101, MATH 1401, or MATH 1111* with corequisite MATH 099X
- **MPL1:** MATH 1001, MATH 1101, MATH 1401, or MATH 1111* without corequisite support
- **MPL2:** MATH 1112, MATH 1261 (or any choice from MPL1)
- **MPL3:** MATH 1113, MATH 1113H** (or any choice from MPL1 or MPL2)
- **MPL4:** MATH 2261 (or any choice from MPL1, MPL2, or MPL3)

Table II. Math course eligibility by MPL

Most degree programs at VSU require math entry at Level MPL0 or MPL1. However, for some fields of study, especially for science, math, computer science and pre-engineering programs, entry above Levels MPL0 or MPL1 may be advantageous.

*Math 1111 is reserved for majors that require it

**Math 1113H requires admission to the Honors College

HOW IS THE MATH PLACEMENT LEVEL (MPL) ASSIGNED?

Find the High School Grade Point Average and SAT Math values. For ACT Math scores, see the crosswalk to SAT Math scores ([Table III](#)).

	Crosswalk To SAT Math Score																																			
ACT Math	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36									
SAT Math	260	280	310	330	360	400	430	470	500	510	520	540	530	560	580	590	610	640	660	680	700	710	720	740	760	780	800									

Table III. Crosswalk – ACT Math to SAT Math scores

The MPL is based on a combination values of the HS GPA and SAT Math score ([Table IV](#)).

		HS GPA			
		0.00-2.68	2.69-3.03	3.04-3.40	3.41-4.00
SAT Math Score	0-500	MPL0	MPL0	MPL0	MPL1
	501-520	MPL0	MPL0	MPL1	MPL2
	521-560	MPL0	MPL1	MPL1	MPL3
	561-800	MPL0	MPL1	MPL2	MPL4

Table IV. Assignment of MPL based on HS GPA and SAT Math score

Who is assigned a VSU Math Placement Level?

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

Who is not assigned a VSU Math Placement Level?

Students with incomplete VSU admissions data, such as missing SAT / ACT scores, may not be assigned an MPL. For example, students that are required to take the COMPASS or Accuplacer exam (students who have not been in school or college for 5 years) and international students who have not submitted SAT scores may not have an MPL, or MPL may default to level MPL0.

When is the VSU Math Placement Level assigned?

The MPL is assigned after you are admitted to VSU. The MPL level is updated when more recent data, such as newer SAT scores or placement exam scores, are received.

When will you be notified of your MPL?

All students will be notified of their math placement level after they are admitted. Check with your advisor if you want to know your MPL.

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 MPL.
- Students who have completed their core math requirement.
- Students who only need to take MATH 1001, 1101, 1401 or MATH 1111 to meet their core math requirement and are not seeking to exempt the corequisite course.

Who has to take the math placement exam?

- Students without enough admission data to produce a VSU Math Placement Level (such as international students and nontraditional students) and who want to take a math course at a higher level and/or exempt their corequisite math course (MATH 099X).
- Students who are dissatisfied with their placement level as determined by the MPL.
- 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 MyVSU (myvsu.valdosta.edu) and 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. (Refer to [Table I](#) 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 courses 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 at least one week prior to your scheduled orientation.
- In order to register for a math class other than Levels MPL0 or MPL1, 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

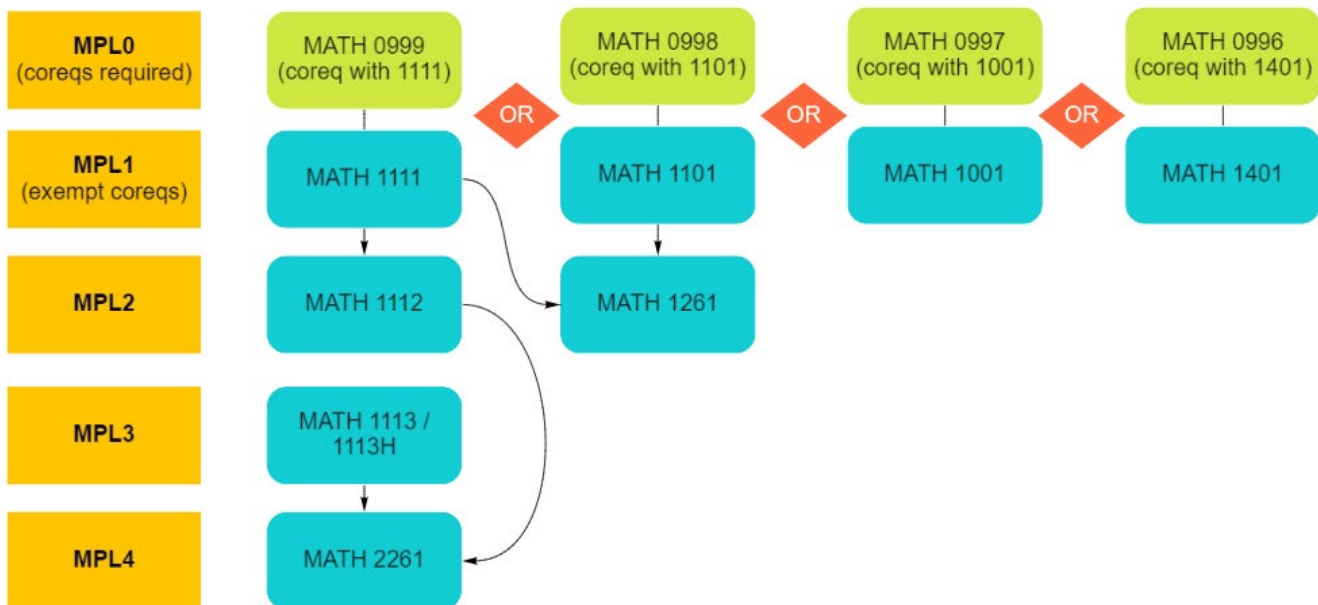
- The placement exam may be taken up to three times.
- Each placement exam attempt may also be used as a diagnostic exam to identify your particular strengths and weaknesses for college-level math.
- The online placement software provides up to six weeks of individualized online tutorials.
- Do not use your own calculator when taking the placement exam. The software will provide you with an on-screen calculator as needed.
- 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 ([Diagram 1](#)). For example, if as a transfer student you received credit for MATH 1111 with at least a C, then you may enter MATH 1112. 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 next course in the sequence according to [Diagram 1](#).

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 Placement Level is MPL2, and I cannot register for calculus. How can I register for MATH 2261?

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 may enter [Diagram 1](#) at the appropriate point.

5. I placed at Level 2 (MPL2), but I need to take MATH 1113 for my major. What should I do?

Answer: MATH 1111 (MPL1, or MPL0 with corequisite MATH 0999) combined with MATH 1112 (MPL2) is **equivalent** to MATH 1113 (MPL3). 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 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 Placement Level 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 any entry level math course **with corequisite** without taking the placement exam, **subject to the requirements** of your degree program (MATH 1001 with 0997, MATH 1101 with 0998, MATH 1401 with 0996, or MATH 1111 with 0999). To register for a Level 2, 3, or 4 course instead, you must achieve a proper score on the placement exam (see [Table I](#)) prior to the registration deadline.

10. I placed at Level MPL4. Can I get college credit for a Level 1, 2, or 3, course?

Answer: Math Placement Level does not grant credit for lower level courses. 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 Department](#)
2. [VSU Catalog and Honor Code](#)
3. [Office of Testing](#)