

Math Placement

The math placement for the freshmen entering the University at Buffalo from Fall 2003 and forward will be based upon Math SAT or ACT scores, along with the courses and grades received during high school. When an advisor speaks with a student, it is important to also discuss the student's confidence level in regards to math.

The STEPS listed below and the attached sheet outline how students should be placed into the various math courses offered at UB.

- STEP 1** - Advisor should first look at the student's Math SAT Score or ACT Score.
- STEP 2** - Advisor should then review student's high school transcript and locate all of the Math courses the student took in high school. Based upon the courses taken, and the grades received, advisors will be able to make a good judgment call regarding the appropriate math placement course.
- STEP 3** - Advisor should know each student's intended major, especially if a student is ready to take a calculus course his/her first semester. It is very important that the direct placement into calculus courses (MTH 121, MTH 131 or MTH 141), is made with the student's intended major in mind.
- STEP 4** - Advisor discusses the above factors with student, and also verifies if the student is currently taking a math course. Advisor then decides which math course is most appropriate.
- STEP 5** - Student is registered for appropriate Math course.

Questions about Pre-Calculus placement?
 Please contact Jay Bustillos, javier@buffalo.edu, Learning Center
 645-2394

Math Placement Table

(CICS screen: IDSKLSTU)

| SAT Math | ACT Math | High School Math | Notes | UB Placement |
|-----------|----------|---|---|---------------------|
| 0 – 520 | 0 - 21 | 3 Years or Less | Strongly Recommend to review basics before fall. | ULC 147 |
| 521 - 570 | 22 – 24 | No Math III, or Math III with grade less than B | Student is anxious about taking math | ULC 147 |
| | | Math III with grade of B or better | Student's major requires Calculus, or student wishes to take Calculus | MTH 115 ULC 148* |

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|-----------|---------|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 571 – 620 | 25 – 26 | No Math III, or Math III with grade less than B | Student's major requires Calculus, but student is anxious about starting with Calculus | MTH 115 ULC 148* |
| | | Math III with grade of B or better | Student's major requires MTH 121 | MTH 121 |
| | | Math III with grade of B or better | Student's major is Management - MTH 131 | MTH 131 |
| | | Math III with grade of B or better | Student's major does not require Calculus and does not plan to take Calculus | Appropriate Gen Ed math course |
| >620 | >=27 | | Based on major – see First Semester Matrix MTH 121, 131, 141, or other appropriate | Gen Ed math course |

Notes:

- ULC 147 – greatly improves student's chance of future success in ULC 148.
- ULC 148 – more appropriate choice for students who do not plan on taking any future Math courses at UB. ULC 148 and MTH 115 are both Pre-Calculus; however the Math department advises that MTH 115 is the best preparation for MTH 141.
- ULC 148 – class size is small. Prepares students for MTH 121, 131, and MTH 141
- MTH 115 – class size is larger (up to 60 students). Prepares students for MTH 121, 131, and MTH 141.
- MTH 131 – class is more intense and more fast-paced than MTH 121. MTH 121/122 is acceptable for Management majors.

Math Placement for Transfer Students

Transfer students who have not taken Math courses in over two years should be strongly encouraged to take a lower level course, preferably ULC 147. All students in Learning Center courses are given a pre-test during the first week of classes, and further adjustments can be made if necessary.