

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Ask and their answers:

What is the math placement exam?

The math placement exam was designed by the Mathematics Department to help determine the most appropriate mathematics course into which you will *initially* be placed. There are vast differences among mathematics courses taught at different high schools and so, this is a way to put all students on the same playing fields as to which skills have been mastered and which have not.

Who has to take the math placement exam?

All incoming freshman that wish to take a mathematics course at West Chester University must take the math placement exam. All transfer students that have not passed a mathematics course at a different university and wish to take a mathematics course at West Chester University must also take the math placement exam.

Where can I take the math placement exam?

The math placement exam is located on D2L, which can be accessed from the West Chester University homepage. Once a student is enrolled in the math placement exam, the student may take the math placement exam from his or her own computer. It is recommended that the exam be taken on a computer (i.e. no mobile devices including phones and tablets) from the Mozilla Firefox server.

Why do I have to take the math placement exam?

The math placement exam is designed to help students determine which math course will be suitable here at West Chester University.

Is there a cost to take the math placement exam?

There is no cost to take the math placement exam.

Do I need to take the math placement exam even though I have AP credits from my high school?

Yes. Even if a student has AP credits the math placement exam must be completed for all incoming students.

I am a transfer student; do I need to take the math placement exam?

If a transfer student has already taken and passed the math courses needed for his or her major, the math placement exam is not necessary. However, if the student has not yet completed the math course needed, the math placement exam must be completed.

Can I use a calculator or other aids on the math placement exam?

A student may not use a calculator or other aids on the math placement exam. This includes calculators, textbooks, Internet sources, other people, etc. We have found that students who artificially inflate their score on such an exam in order to place into higher-level courses often fail that course due to lack of preparation.

Why can't I log into D2L to take the math placement exam?

Before a student can take the math placement exam on D2L, they must first set up their WCU account and password (information on how to do this is listed on the math placement exam page on the WCU website, and was also in the math placement exam letter the student received with their welcome packet). After setting up their account, a student may have to wait up to 7 days to be added to the math placement exam roster on D2L. If, after 7 days, the student is still having trouble with this, questions can be directed to Susan Turner at mathexam@wcupa.edu.

What does my math placement exam score mean?

COURSE NUMBERS BEFORE FALL 2016

Placement Level	Courses the student is eligible to take
0	Q01
1	Q00
2	101, 102, 103, 104, 121, 151
3	101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 107, 110, 121, 151
4	101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 107, 108, 110, 121, 151
5	101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 107, 108, 110, 121, 151, 161

COURSE NUMBERS BEGINNING FALL 2016

Placement Level	Courses the student is eligible to take
0	Q20
1	Q30
2	101, 103, 104, 121, 151
3	101, 103, 104, 113, 115, 121, 131, 151
4	101, 103, 104, 113, 115, 121, 131, 143, 145, 151
5	101, 103, 104, 113, 115, 121, 131, 143, 145, 151, 161

What if I don't like my score on the math placement exam?

This can often be a shock to students, especially for those who have done very well in mathematics in high school. If this happens, we suggest that you work to brush up on certain skills. The Mathematics Department has created a collection of review modules to assist you in your effort to review the main concepts from algebra, trigonometry, and pre-calculus. The program we have chosen to use is called WeBWorK and an account has been created for you. You can access this account by following these instructions:

WeBWorK Login Instructions

1. Enter the address <http://math-webwork.wcupa.edu> into your favorite browser.
2. Click on the "Placement" link.
3. Your login is the prefix of your @wcupa.edu email address (be sure to use capital letters). Your password (which you can change if you so desire) is initially set to your six-digit student ID number (do not put a zero at the beginning). For example, if your name is Joe Blough and your student ID number is 123456, then your login is JB123456 and your password is 123456.

Problems with this login can be directed to Susan Turner via email at mathexam@wcupa.edu.

The review consists of five modules. We suggest that you start with the module that corresponds to the placement level you achieved - a little investigative work by glancing at the modules will likely reveal where you should begin your review. Work your way through that module and then proceed to the next module, and then the next, etc. until you come to a module containing information completely foreign to you or which is beyond your desired level of placement. As you work through these modules, we encourage you to review the material using external sources as well as you work through these modules. Free online resources are abundant; for instance, Kahn Academy has hundreds of well-constructed online videos that are free to use.

Once six weeks have passed since your first attempt at the placement exam and you feel more confident about the material after having completed the WeBWorK review, you will be permitted to retake the placement exam, if you so choose. At that point, please contact Susan Turner (mathexam@wcupa.edu) so that she can release the exam.

Why can't I log into WeBWorKs to work on my practice modules?

Make sure the correct login is being used: your login is the prefix of your @wcupa.edu email address and your password is your six digit student ID number (without the 0 in the beginning). If you are still having trouble logging in, please contact Susan Turner (mathexam@wcupa.edu) for further assistance.