

Math Placement Test FAQs

1. **Where is the placement test located?**

The placement test is administered online through blackboard and proctored via zoom. You will receive the zoom link and instructions prior to your test date.

2. **What do I need to bring to the placement test?**

Students need a photo ID with a visible picture and their G Number.

3. **What scores do I need to get into my classes?**

Passing scores for each section are as follows:

Section	Passing Score
Algebra I	13 out of 18 questions
Algebra II	7 out of 10 questions
Transcendentals	7 out of 10 questions

4. **How long do I have for each section?**

The time limits, without ODS accommodations, for each section are as follows:

Section	Time Limit
Algebra I	45 minutes
Algebra II	30 minutes
Transcendentals	30 minutes

5. **I have my scores, what classes can I take?**

Different courses have different prerequisites and require different placement test scores. Please read our flow chart to see which scores enable you to take which math class.

6. **I don't think that I need to take the placement test, how do I get an override?**

If you have met the prerequisites for your class in some other way then you can submit a Course Registration Override Request. You will also need to explain why you qualify for an override and provide documentation, such as AP scores, transcripts from other institutions, etc. Overrides are only given for people who meet the prerequisites in another way, not simply because you don't think you should have to take the placement test.

7. What class do I need for my degree?

This will vary by degree and it is best to speak to an advisor in your degree program for the answer. A list of degrees and the courses they require can be found here, but this is not complete, may not be up to date and may not have every degree program listed. The best thing to do is contact an advisor who is in your degree program since they are the most knowledgeable about what the program entails.

8. How many chances do I have for each section?

Students are allowed two chances per section per registration year. A registration year runs from March of one year to January the following year. Scores will reset each March and you will get two new attempts per section.

9. How long are my placement test scores valid?

Placement test scores are good for three consecutive semesters, including summer. This means if you take the placement test during your orientation, you may use those scores to register for Fall, Spring and Summer classes.

10. I did not pass the Algebra I section, what are my options?

If this was your first attempt at Algebra I then you may retake it during the next available testing date, or later. If this was your second attempt at Algebra I then you may take the online Algebra Program, Math 008. This is a self-paced, online program that works instead of the Algebra I section of the placement test. Upon completion, you may register for either Math 108 or Math 105. Please keep in mind that Math 105, not Math 108, is the prerequisite for Math 113.

11. I took Math 108 and now I need to take Math 113. Why is it saying test score error?

Math 108 is not the prerequisite for Math 113. You will either need to pass the placement test to get into Math 113 or take Math 105 and get a C or better before you can register for Math 113.

12. I took the IB test, do I need to take the placement test?

If you have a score of 5, 6, or 7 on the Higher Learning Mathematics you will receive credit for Math 110 and Math 113. Please contact Christine Amaya if you would like an override to either retake those classes or register for Math 114.

If you have a score of 4 on the Higher Learning Mathematics, you will receive credit for Math 110 and Math 123. Please contact Christine Amaya if you would like an override to either retake those classes or register for Math 124 or Math 113.

If you have a score of 5, 6 or 7 on the Standard Learning Mathematic you will receive credit for Math 108. Please contact Christine Amaya if you would like an override for Math 105. Credit for Math 108 will not allow you to take Math 113. You will either need a passing score in Math 105 or on the Math Placement Test.

13. I took the AP test, do I need to take the placement test?

If you have a score of 4 or 5 on the AP Calculus BC, you will receive credit for Math 113 and 114 and do not need to take the placement test. Please contact Christine Amaya if you would like an override to either retake those classes or register for Math 213.

If you have a score of 4 or 5 on the AP Calculus AB, you will receive credit for Math 113. Please contact Christine Amaya if you would like an override to retake Math 113 or register for Math 114.

If you have a score of 3 on the AP Calculus AB, you will receive credit for Math 123 and can register for Math 124. Together these classes are equivalent to taking Math 113. You may also use this score for prerequisite if you wish to retake Math 113. Please contact Christine Amaya if you would like an override for Math 113.

14. I am coming in with transfer credit, do I need to take the placement test?

This will depend on the classes you are transferring and the classes you have taken at your previous institution. Some classes will not transfer but may still be used as prerequisite. Please contact your advisor to determine if this is the case.

15. I need to take Math 106, 110, 111 or Stat 250. Do I need to take the placement test?

These courses do not have prerequisites and do not require students to take the placement test in order to register. Please keep in mind that these courses are not prerequisites for other classes and can not be used in place of taking the placement test.

16. I took the placement test at another institution, can I use that to fulfill the requirement at George Mason?

Unfortunately, we do not accept placement test scores from other institutions. Unless you can meet the prerequisite another way, say with a course you took, then you will need to take the placement test here at Mason.

17. What happens if I am caught cheating on the placement test?

As with any other violation of the Academic Honor Code, you will be sent to the Academic Integrity Office where they will review the case and determine the sanctions. This is just a placement test, it is for your own benefit, so violating the Honor Code and having that on your record is not worth it. Please refrain from cheating.

18. I was only checking the time on my phone, answering a text, using a graphing calculator, asking someone a question, looking something up online, etc. Why did the proctor close out my test and ask me to leave.

The above scenarios are all examples of cheating. You were caught cheating on the placement test and will now be sent to the Academic Integrity Office for review. They will contact you with details.

19. Once I take my placement test, how long until I can register for my class?

Scores are given to student immediately upon completion. We usually advise that it will take up to 24 hours for scores to upload into the registration system, however it is typically only an hour or two before you can register for your class.