

What is on the placement exam?

There are essentially two different parts to the placement exam, and you may take one or both parts, depending upon your situation. These two different parts are described below.

	ALGEBRA PLACEMENT TEST	TRIGONOMETRY PLACEMENT TEST
PURPOSE	<p>This test is used to determine which math class you “place into” or should be initially taking (up to MATH 1334).</p> <p>Your SAT/ACT scores are first used to determine your placement into a math class. If you are not content with your placement based on SAT/ACT, you can take this test to attempt to place into a higher level math class. You might also take this test if you do not have SAT/ACT scores to be used in determining your placement.</p> <p>The right mathematics class for you depends both on your placement and on your intended major.</p>	<p>This test is used to “place out of” the trigonometry class (MATH 1022), which is a co-requisite for both MATH 1334 (Calculus I) and MATH 1230 (Calculus for Life Sciences).</p> <p>Some students also take this test to fulfill the MATH 1022 prerequisite for classes outside the Math Department such as Physics 1050.</p>
FORMAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online only ▪ 30 multiple choice questions ▪ 60 minutes ▪ No calculator ▪ Can be taken only once 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online the first time ▪ On paper for retake ▪ 9 multiple choice questions ▪ 30 minutes ▪ No calculator ▪ Can usually be taken two times*
CONTENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Algebraic manipulation/simplification ▪ Expansion ▪ Factoring ▪ Fractions ▪ Powers ▪ Roots ▪ Solving equations & inequalities ▪ Linear, quadratic, polynomial & rational equations & inequalities ▪ Equations & inequalities with absolute values ▪ Geometry ▪ Area, perimeter/circumference, volume, surface area ▪ Functions, concept of a function ▪ Compositions of functions ▪ Domain & range ▪ Families of functions ▪ Functions with absolute value ▪ Graphs of functions ▪ Linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, & logarithmic functions ▪ Transformations of functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Angles ▪ Inverse trigonometric functions ▪ Law of sines & law of cosines ▪ Solving triangles ▪ Solving trig equations ▪ Trigonometric functions ▪ Trigonometric identities

Do I need to take the algebra placement test?

Nobody has to take the placement test. Your initial placement into a mathematics course is done based on your SAT/ACT score. Transfer credits or AP credits can also affect your placement. Take the SU algebra placement test only if you are not satisfied with the initial mathematics course that you are placed into through your SAT/ACT score.

Do I need to take the trig placement test?

If you satisfy the algebra prerequisite for MATH 1334 or MATH 1230 through your SAT/ACT or SU placement test score, you may still need to take MATH 1022 (Trigonometry), as a co-requisite. To waive this co-requirement, you may take the SU trig placement test. It is possible to register for both MATH 1022 and MATH 1334 and later drop the MATH 1022 once you pass the trig placement test (during the add/drop period for the quarter).

When can I take the placement test?

You can take the test at any time. New freshman students are encouraged to take the placement tests online in the spring or early summer before coming to SU. This gives you the opportunity to find out early where you place and, if necessary, to take courses over the summer to promote your academic progress. In any case, it is recommended that a student take the placement tests before the beginning of their registration period.

How do I arrange to take the placement test?

Email the Math Department administrative assistant, John Teegarden, at teegardj@seattleu.edu to arrange taking the placement test online. Requests must include your SU ID number and your SU email address. If you have already taken the trig placement test once and wish to take it again, the second test must be taken on paper. To schedule a time to retake the trigonometry test, email our department assistant. The algebra portion of the math placement exam cannot be retaken. ***PLEASE NOTE:** When the Math Dept. office is closed (outside business hours, weekends, holidays) there is no option to retake our trig placement test.

When do I get my results?

The test will be scored immediately after you finish. Your advisor can assist you in interpreting your score. Scoring details are listed here as well: <https://www.seattleu.edu/scieng/math/math-placement>

How long do I have to complete the test?

You have 60 minutes for the algebra placement test and 30 minutes for the trig placement test. Once you start you cannot stop. Other accommodations are available for students who have provided professional documentation to the Office of Disabilities Services.

Do I have to take the class I place into or can I take a lower level class I feel more comfortable with?

You can take a class below the class you place into. It should be noted, however, that once you receive credit for a course (with a grade of 2.00/C or better), you cannot subsequently receive credit for a course below it.

If you have additional questions, please contact

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or Math Chair Dylan Helliwell: helliwed@seattleu.edu / 206-296-5925 / Bannan 408B