SEATTLEU. MATH PLACEMENT EXAM

What is on the placement exam?

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

	ALGEBRA PLACEMENT TEST	TRIGONOMETRY PLACEMENT TEST
PURPOSE	This test is used to determine which math class you "place into" or should be initially taking (up to MATH 1334).	This test is used to "place out of" the trigonometry class (MATH 1022), which is a co-requisite for both MATH 1230 (Calculus for Life Sciences) and MATH 1334 (Calculus I).
	All freshmen are required to take this test. Others who are not content with their placement based on SAT/ACT or other relevant scores, may take this test to attempt to place into a higher level math class. Your best scores are usually used to determine your placement into a math class.	Some students also take this test to fulfill the MATH 1022 prerequisite for classes outside the Math Department such as Physics 1050.
	The right mathematics class for you depends both on your placement and on your intended major.	
FORMAT	▪ Online only ▪ 30 multiple choice questions ▪ 60 minutes ▪ No calculator ▪ Can be taken only once	▪ Online the first time ▪ On paper for retake ▪ 9 multiple choice questions ▪ 30 minutes ▪ No calculator ▪ Can usually be taken two times*
CONTENT	▪ 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	▪ 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?

Seattle U. is requiring all freshmen to take the algebra placement test. Since ACT and SAT tests are no longer required, this test has become an essential way for SU to assess students' mathematical knowledge and determine the most appropriate math classes for them to take. If you do have ACT, SAT or other relevant scores, these will still be considered when assessing a student's math ability. Usually the highest of these scores is what is used for placement. Students other than freshmen need take the algebra test only if they are not satisfied with the class their other scores would place them into. **PLEASE NOTE:** the algebra test may only be taken once.

Do I need to take the trig placement test?

If you satisfy the algebra prerequisite for MATH 1230 or MATH 1334 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). The trig test may be taken a 2nd time on paper, if necessary.

When can I take the placement tests?

These are online tests you can take at any time. Freshman are encouraged to take the placement tests in the spring or early summer before coming to SU. This gives students the opportunity to find out early where they place and, if necessary, to take courses over the summer to promote their 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 tests?

Freshmen will automatically be signed up to take these two placement tests. You may also email the Math Department assistant, John Teegarden, at teegardj@seattleu.edu to sign you up, if need be. Requests must include your SU ID number and your SU email address. **PLEASE NOTE:** When the Math Dept. office is closed (outside business hours, weekends, holidays) there is no option to retake our trig test.

When do I get my results?

The test will be scored immediately after you finish. The next day, your scores will appear in your official SU records in Colleague. 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. 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 406