

Because the quantitative work that students must do at the college level is based on high school mathematics, the recommended mathematical background for students is two years of algebra, one year of geometry, and study in analytic geometry, trigonometry, functions and probability. A study of calculus is not required.

Even with these courses, the transition from high school mathematics to college mathematics can be difficult. The Department of Mathematics & Computer Science assists in this transition by having a mathematics placement program to assist students in making correct choices.

All admitted first-year students take the mathematics placement examination during the summer orientation program, before registering for courses. Both the student's mathematical background and academic interests are used to make a recommendation for an appropriate mathematics course to be taken in the fall. The ACT's Compass Placement Exam is used; sample questions may be found [here](#) and [here](#).