

Preliminary Mathematics Placement Information
Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Valparaiso University
(Current as of Fall 2017)

Upon entry to Valparaiso University, all students who do yet not have college credit for mathematics are given a preliminary placement into appropriate mathematics classes through an evaluation process that includes any or all of ACT or SAT math scores, high school GPA, and math classes taken / grades earned during senior year. If a student determines the preliminary placement level is suitable, there is no need to continue and take the math placement assessment. If a student wishes to improve the preliminary placement, then he or she should take the math placement assessment. The descriptions of the specific placement levels and the means for the preliminary determination follow.

Placement Level 3: Students at this level are eligible for everything listed for Placement Group 2, as well as Math 131: Calculus I. This is as high as our placement system goes; placement in mathematics to anything higher than Calculus I requires previous college credit for the appropriate pre-requisite classes (for example, students who have received AP credit for Calculus I may start in Calculus II). Any student in this placement group should NOT take the math placement assessment.

The minimum standards for preliminary placement at this level are:

- PL 3: ACT MATH 30 - 36 (SAT MATH 690 - 800)
- PL 3: ACT MATH 25 - 29 (SAT MATH 590 - 680), and high school GPA of 3.50 or higher, and having taken a course in Precalculus, Trigonometry, or Calculus during senior year

Placement Level 2: Students at this level are eligible for everything listed for Placement Level 1, as well as Math 115: Trigonometry and Functions and Math 124: Finite Mathematics. Any student in this placement group should NOT take the math placement assessment unless direct entry into MATH 131: Calculus is desired.

- PL 2: ACT MATH 25 - 29 (SAT MATH 590 - 680), and high school GPA of 3.50 or higher, but NOT having taken a course in Precalculus, Trigonometry, or Calculus during senior year

Placement Level 1: Students at this level are eligible to enroll in many quantitative analysis and natural science courses, including BIO 171, CHEM 121, PSY 201. In mathematics specifically, students are eligible to enroll in Math 111: Quantitative Reasoning II, Math 120: Mathematics and Society, Math 122: Applied Calculus, and Stat 140: General Statistics. Your choice of whether to take a mathematics / statistics class or a quantitative analysis course in another department should be made in consultation with your academic advisor. A student in this placement group should NOT take the math placement assessment unless direct entry into a course requiring a higher placement level is desired.

- PL 1: ACT MATH 25 - 29 (SAT MATH 590 - 680) and high school GPA below 3.50
- PL 1: ACT MATH 20 - 24 (SAT MATH 490 - 580) and high school GPA of 3.50 or higher

Placement Level 0: Students in this group take MATH 110: Quantitative Reasoning I before proceeding to further college mathematics and statistics classes. Also, most quantitative analysis and natural science courses require completion of MATH 110 or placement higher than MATH 110 in order to enroll. *Any student in this placement group is encouraged to take the math placement assessment.*

- PL 0: ACT MATH 20-24 (SAT MATH 490 - 580) and high school GPA below 3.50
- PL 0: ACT MATH 19 (SAT MATH 480) or below

Placement Level NP: (No Placement) Students for whom we do not have sufficient information to determine a placement level. *Any student in this placement group is must provide the necessary information or take the math placement assessment.*

NOTES:

- *It is very possible your preliminary placement is lower than you think it should be; sometimes we have incomplete information. In that event, you can act to supply the missing information, or take the math placement assessment.*
- Any prior college credit for mathematics or statistics courses (including credit achieved through AP exams and transfer credits) overrides everything in this preliminary placement system.
- All placement activity takes place before a student enters the course stream. *Once a student begins in the course stream, progression from course to course relies solely on the standard course pre-requisites.* For example, someone who places into MATH 115: Trigonometry and Functions cannot get an F in that class but then proceed to Calculus I anyway by (re)taking the math placement assessment.

To take the math placement assessment, visit <http://www.valpo.edu/mathematics-statistics/academics/ap-credit-and-math-placement/>. Note that more than one attempt at the placement assessment is possible, so a first try does not necessarily give a final placement result.