Math Placement Decision Tree

Revised 10-2026

Step 1: Is your major NON-STEM? *(Examples: Nursing, Liberal Arts, Criminal Justice, Education, Business Studies, Hospitality, etc.)*

- **YES →** You likely **do NOT need a placement test**
  - Your math placement will be based on your high school coursework and GPA
  - Required course is either **Math for Liberal Arts (MAT-120)** or **Elementary Statistics I (MAT-125)**.
- **MAYBE**- check here to find which math your program requires (https://www.mccc.edu/programs_degree.shtml)
  - If the program has MAT-120 or MAT-125 as its math requirement then you do not need the math placement test.
  - If the program includes a math ***requirement other than*** MAT-120 or MAT-125 then continue below.
- **NO → (STEM or algebra-based program) Continue to Step 2**

Step 2: Do you have SAT or AP scores?

- **SAT Math 530 or higher?**
  - **YES →** You can take a college-level math course **(no placement test needed)**
  - **NO → Continue**
- **AP Scores?**
  - **If YES →**
    - **AP Calculus (3+) →** means you are eligible for **algebra/pre-calc math (MAT146, MAT140, MAT115)**
    - *If you would like to determine your eligibility for a higher level of math (e.g., Calculus I), you will need to complete the placement test.*
    - **AP Statistics (3+) →** means you are eligible for **statistics math (MAT120, MAT125)**
- **If NO → Continue to Step 3**

Step 3: What math did you take in high school?

- Took Algebra 2 or Pre-Calculus with **C or higher?**
  - **YES →** means you are eligible for **algebra/pre-calc math** (MAT146, MAT140, MAT115)
    - *If you would like to determine your eligibility for a higher level of math (e.g., Calculus I), you will need to complete the placement test.*
  - **NO →** You should take the placement test
- Took Algebra 2 or Pre-Calculus with **lower than C *or only Algebra 1*?**
  - You should take the placement test

When unsure if you should take the math placement test, visit the enrollment center on 2nd floor of Student Center building.