MATH PLACEMENT

A Math Placement level is either required or recommended as a prerequisite for all mathematics, computer science and statistics courses, and all students must take at least one such quantitative “Q” course. It is also a prerequisite for all math-intensive “M” courses in other departments (e.g., Econ 190), and all students must take at least one M course, too. So the Math Placement test is essentially required of all Wittenberg students.

The following tables lists minimum Math Placement levels for several common introductory courses in mathematics, computer science, and statistics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Minimum Math Placement Level</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Math 131, 171, 201</td>
<td>25 required</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math 120</td>
<td>24 required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 127</td>
<td>23 recommended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 112, 118, 119</td>
<td>22 recommended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comp 121, 150</td>
<td>22 recommended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M courses (in other departments)</td>
<td>22 (or higher) recommended</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Math Placement test consists of 50 multiple choice questions. It tests two kinds of mathematical ability: 1) problem solving in context, and 2) algebraic skills and understanding of functions. For this reason the Math Placement level has two digits. The first digit (1 or 2) indicates unprepared/prepared on the problem solving part (2 = prepared). The second digit (1 through 5) indicates the algebra/functions level (1 = lowest and 5 = highest).

To take the Math Placement test, log in to the myWitt portal and look for Placement Exams. **The Math Placement test may be taken only once.** You cannot retake the test to raise your level. Because it has important consequences, be sure to give it your best, honest effort!

To raise your Math Placement level, you typically must go through the Math Workshop. (The lone exception is getting from Level 24 to Level 25, which you can do by taking MATH 120, Elementary Functions.) How much time and effort this requires depends on your starting level
and on what level you need to achieve, because different courses have different Math Placement prerequisites. There are separate processes for raising your first digit (on problem solving) and raising your second digit (on algebra/functions). The Math Workshop has several options for getting this done – including individually tailored tutoring, self-paced study, and structured courses.

THE MATH WORKSHOP

Located in room 370 of the BDK Science Center, the Math Workshop features a full-time staff director with expertise in math education, as well as a stable of trained, certified student math tutors. In addition to helping students raise their placement levels, the Math Workshop provides help and peer tutoring for students taking any mathematics or math-related course, including courses in chemistry, physics, economics, business, accounting, and computer science.

STARTING THE MATHEMATICS MAJOR

Students considering a major in mathematics should complete the Math 201: Calculus I - Math 202: Calculus II sequence as soon as possible. This requires a Math Placement level of 25. Such students could also consider taking Math 227: Data Analysis and Comp 150: Computer Programming I during their first year.

If a student has a Math Placement level of 24, s/he will need to complete Math 120: Elementary Functions (a.k.a., pre-calculus), the prerequisite for Math 201. Math 120 should be taken in the Fall of the first year so that Math 201 can be taken in the Spring. Students with a Math Placement level under 24 must go to the Math Workshop to raise their Math Placement level. Bringing your Math Placement level up to 24 in the Fall semester will allow you to take Math 120 in the Spring and Math 201/202 in your sophomore year.

STARTING THE COMPUTER SCIENCE MINOR

Students considering a minor in Computer Science should complete the Comp 150: Computer Programming I, Comp 250: Computer Programming II sequence by the end of their sophomore year. Comp 150 is offered each semester, and Comp 250 is offered only in the Spring.

STARTING THE STATISTICS MINOR

Statistics: To minor in Statistics a student should begin by first completing an intro stat course. The preferred intro stat course for the stat minor is Math 227: Data Analysis, which has a calculus prerequisite – though other intro stat courses can work. Check with the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science for details.
Q. What is the difference between Math 131: Essentials of Calculus and Math 201: Calculus I?

A. Math 201: Calculus I is the first course in a standard two-semester calculus sequence that covers both differential and integral calculus. (Completing Math 201 does not require one to take Math 202: Calculus II.) Math 131: Essentials of Calculus covers the highlights and main concepts of the entire 201/202 sequence, though without as much depth or breadth, so that it can be completed in one term. 131 is intended as a one-semester terminal course in calculus, meaning that students who pass Math 131 cannot normally go on to take more advanced math courses. So if you know you’ll take only one semester of calculus, we recommend 131. But if your intention is to take more math courses (especially for students majoring in math, physics, chemistry, and few other majors), you should take the Math 201/202 sequence instead.

Q. When is the latest I can start a Mathematics major?

A. The math major can be started as late as the beginning of a student's sophomore year, although this requires doubling up more frequently on mathematics courses in the junior and senior years.

Q. What kind of calculator do I need?

A. For most courses, it doesn’t much matter. But for a few introductory mathematics courses like Math 120, Math 131, Math 201, or Math 202, the Mathematics department requires particular kinds of graphing calculators. For those courses, students are required to use TI-83, TI-83+ or TI-84 calculators – though older TI-82’s TI-85’s and TI-86’s are OK, too. TI 89’s, TI- 2000’s or TI-Voyagers, while useful for upper level math and science courses, are not permitted in those particular mathematics courses due to their advanced capabilities.

ADDITIONAL HELP AND QUESTIONS

If you have questions or comments please contact

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