

South Dakota Board of Regents

University Mathematics Placement Process for Fall 1999

Each regental university's Fall 1999 Mathematics placement process is described below. The contact persons can answer questions and provide additional information.

Black Hills State University

*Contact: Dr. Stan Smith
stansmith@bhsu.edu*

For the Fall 1999, all entering freshmen will take the Mathematics Association of America (MAA) College Level Placement Test BA/3A (Basic Algebra). This exam does not allow the use of calculators. The student will be placed into Introductory Algebra, Intermediate Algebra or College Algebra based upon a combination of placement exam results, ACT score, and mathematics courses completed in high school. Students with sufficient credentials will be allowed to take Trigonometry as preparation for entrance to Calculus.

Students who wish to place directly into Calculus will also complete the MAA College Level Placement Test CR/1F (Calculus Readiness). This exam does not allow the use of calculators. Students with an acceptable score on this exam will be allowed to register for Calculus I. We will assess our placement successes at the end of the fall semester after final grades are available. If indicated, adjustments will be made in the matrix used to place students.

Dakota State University

*Contact: Dr. Philip Sandberg
philipsandberg@dsu.edu*

Placement of students into the appropriate mathematics course is determined by ACT math scores, if available, and scores on the Calculator-Based Algebra test and the Calculator-Based Calculus test from the Mathematics Association of America (MAA) Placement Test Program. All incoming, degree-seeking students are required to take the placement tests, except those students who have completed coursework equivalent to the general education mathematics requirement or who have passed equivalent exams such as AP, CLEP or DANTES. Each year the placement test scores, ACT scores and course grades are reviewed, and, if necessary, adjustments are made in the matrix used to place students.

During the admission process, students receive information about the placement tests. The DSU Assessment WEB site contains sample questions and additional placement information. The actual matrix used to place students is available upon request.

Northern State University

*Contact: Dr. Abid Elkhader, 626-2456
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All students entering NSU will take the Mathematics Association of America (MAA) Calculator Based Algebra Test and Calculus Readiness Test as the mathematics placement examinations. A scoring matrix consisting of high school algebra courses taken, ACT mathematics sub-test scores, and the required placement exam is then used to direct students towards remedial math (MATH 095), Intermediate Algebra (MATH 101), College Algebra (MATH 102), or Finite Mathematics (MATH 143). Students may place out of MATH 102; but they then must take a higher-level mathematics course in order to satisfy general education requirements. It is important to note that a high score on the first placement test and/or on the math sub-test of the ACT does not exempt students from taking college algebra or a higher level mathematics course in order to fulfill their general education requirements. Students are allowed to take CLEP examinations to gain credit for certain mathematics classes.

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology

Contact: Dr. Antonette Logar
antonette.logar@sdsmt.edu

Students entering SDSMT are required to take a mathematics placement exam unless they have college transfer credit in mathematics at or above the level of college algebra. The exam that is given is made up of the BA (Basic Algebra) and CR (Calculus Readiness) exams published by the Mathematical Association of America. This is a calculator-based exam. The student's score on this exam is used to determine whether the student should start with College Algebra, Calculus I, or with a remedial algebra course. In addition, an optional trigonometry placement exam is given (also published by the MAA). Calculators are not allowed on this exam.

Note that students cannot take Calculus I without an acceptable score on the BA-CR test, but may take Calculus I and Trigonometry concurrently if they get an acceptable score on the BA-CR test but not on the trig placement test.

Sample exams, also published by the MAA, are available from the Dept. of Math & Computer Science upon request. Additional information about the individualized College Algebra and Trigonometry courses offered at SDSMT may be found at the website <http://sgi4.mcs.sdsmt.edu/prime> under the topic "Student Guide for the PRIME Program."

South Dakota State University

Contact: Dr. Jan Vandever, 688-6205
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For Fall 1999, entering freshman took the combined Mathematics Association of America College-Level Placement Tests: CB-BA (Basic Algebra) and CB-CR (Calculus Readiness).

SDSU will continue to use placement scores, the combined ACT mathematics score and student self-reported high school mathematics courses taken to place students.

The combined exams are calculator dependent and contain 50 items. We will assess our success at the end of the Fall semester when final grades are available. If indicated, adjustments will be made in the matrix used to place students.

Based on performance on the exam, a student could receive credit for Math 102 or score high enough to be allowed to take a Trigonometry test and then, based on the Trig. test results, receive credit for Math 113. Thus, a student could earn 3 credits for Math 102 or 5 credits for Math 113, but not both. A \$7.50 per credit hour recording fee would be assessed of each student desiring to have the credit placed on his/her transcript.

We have a brochure of frequently asked questions about the placement process and sample questions from retired exams available. This packet has been sent to all faculty advisers on campus and sent to high school teachers upon request. Availability of the packet was advertised through the SDCTM newsletter.

University of South Dakota

Contact: Dr. Curt Olson, 677-5262
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For the Fall 1999, every entering freshman will be required to take the combined Mathematics Association of America College Level Placement Tests CB-BA/IA and CB-CR/IA forms. USD will continue to use the mathematics placement test score, the combined ACT score, and the student self-reported high school mathematics courses to place students in the appropriate mathematics course. The test consists of 50 questions. We will assess our success at the end of the fall semester when final grades are available. If indicated, adjustments will be made in the matrix used to place students.