The Department of Mathematics, Columbia University

Calculus Placement Guide

The Mathematics department at Columbia University does not offer a calculus placement exam. Instead, the department determines the initial placement and credit transfer recommendations for incoming students based on the calculus courses they have completed in high school or at other colleges.

Students have the opportunity to refine their initial placement recommendation in consultation with their school advisor and the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the department of their intended major or concentration. To help you make an informed decision, representatives from the mathematics department will be available to answer questions during the Academic Resources Fair.

For a smoother experience and to answer routine questions in advance, we recommend that you familiarize yourself with the placement information and course descriptions available on the Mathematics department webpage.

Calculus Placement Summary

If you have little or no background in calculus but possess strong pre-calculus skills, we recommend enrolling in MATH UN1101 - Calculus I. Alternatively, you can consider MATH UN1003 - College Algebra and Analytic Geometry, which provides a comprehensive pre-calculus review along with an introduction to key calculus concepts. This option will prepare you for success in MATH UN1101.

For students with a solid foundation in differential calculus, equivalent to a score of 5 on the AP Calculus AB exam or 4 on the AP Calculus BC exam, you have the choice to start with either MATH UN1102 - Calculus II or MATH IN1201 - Calculus III. Your decision may depend on your intended major or concentration. It's important to note that MATH UN1102 is not a prerequisite for MATH UN1201, but both are required before proceeding to MATH UN1202 - Calculus IV.

If you have an strong calculus background, covering differential and integral calculus as well as infinite series (similar to a score of 5 on the AP Calculus BC exam), you can consider advancing directly to MATH UN1201 - Calculus III and MATH UN1202 - Calculus IV. Alternatively, if you're highly interested in physics or mathematics, you might explore the option of MATH UN1205 - Accelerated Multivariable Calculus.

For students with a particularly strong interest in mathematics or other theoretical disciplines, MATH UN1207 - Honors Mathematics A and **MATH UN1208 - Honors**

Mathematics B are available. Please note that MATH UN1208 cannot be taken without first completing MATH UN1207.

We are committed to supporting you in your academic journey, and we encourage you to take advantage of the available resources to make informed decisions for your calculus courses at Columbia University.

For any further inquiries, please contact George Dragomir at gd2572@columbia.edu.