Information about the online Mathematics Skills Assessment

Mathematics Skills Assessment Overview
The math assessment is an important placement tool that determines your beginning placement level in math and science courses. No course credit is given for the test, nor does the test fulfill any math requirements. There are two versions of the 75-minute online assessment: Test B (arithmetic, algebra and geometry) and Test D (pre-calculus).

When you log in to the skills assessment, the correct test will be automatically selected for you. The test for new freshmen is based on their highest qualifying ACT/SAT scores.

Regardless of test scores, transfer students take Test B and international students take Test D.

If the system indicates that you are not required to complete testing, and you do not meet one of the exemptions (see below), contact Testing immediately at 614-292-2241.

If you score high enough on Test B, the computer system will invite you to take Test D at orientation, which may result in a higher placement level.

If you have an unreported ACT or SAT math score that would qualify you for Test D, contact the Office of Testing at 614-292-2241 (weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) prior to completing the Math Skills Assessment.

Freshmen:
Take Test B if your ACT math score is 24 (SAT math score 560) or lower.
Take test D is your ACT math score is 25 (SAT math score 570) or higher.

Important note:
You may use a calculator during the test but you may not use other resources or get assistance. If you get help in any way during the test, the results will be skewed, and you may be placed in a math or science class that is inappropriate for you.

In addition to being stressful, starting in a course for which you are unprepared can have serious negative results: you could receive a low grade or fail the course, which impacts your academic standing and possibly your financial aid, scholarships, and admission into your desired academic program.

So get off to a great start: take the assessment as instructed.
Do you need to take the test?
You are required to take the assessment unless one of the following is true:

- You received transfer credit for a specific Ohio State math course (with the exception of Math 1040).
- You received general or deferred/unknown math credit that has been evaluated by a mathematics counselor exempting you from the assessment. Visit registrar.osu.edu/transfer_credit/index.asp for details.
- You received your AP Calculus test score prior to your orientation session, and you received a score of 3, 4 or 5 on the AB or BC exam. (You must have an official copy of your AP test scores sent to Ohio State. For details on how to send your scores, contact College Boards’ AP Services at 888-225-5427.)
- You received your IB scores and received a score of 4 or higher on the higher level math exam. (You must have an official copy of your IB test scores sent to Ohio State. For details on how to send your scores, contact the IB Program at ibo.org).
- You are a nontraditional student, 23 years of age or older, and you choose not to take the math assessment. Nontraditional students who do not take the math assessment will be placed in Math 1050, a beginning algebra course. You must take the assessment if you wish to begin at a higher level course. Not taking the assessment may also impact registration for science courses.

It is strongly recommended* that you take the mathematics skills assessment if one of the following applies:

- You took an AP calculus exam and are unable to present a score of 3, 4 or 5 on either the AB or BC calculus exam at the time of your orientation program.
- You took the higher level IB math exam and are unable to present a score of 4 or higher at the time of your orientation program.

Prepare
Study. Review. Practice. To perform your best, review the sample problems, exam topics and additional information available at math.osu.edu/undergrad/future-students/incoming/placement-test.

Have high school course and grade information handy. During the assessment you will be asked for your high school math courses and semester grades.

If you have a disability, contact us. Students with disabilities can contact the Ohio State Office of Disability Services, 614-292-3307, to make arrangements for taking the math skills assessment prior to orientation.

Browser requirements:
Netscape version 4.06 or higher or Internet Explorer 4.0 or higher
Note: Many students experience difficulty taking the test while using AOL and some free Internet services. We recommend using the browsers mentioned above.

*We are very concerned about your success at Ohio State, especially in mathematics. For students without AP, IB, or post-secondary credit, the assessment serves as an advisory tool for placement into calculus, although by itself it does not distinguish between the various calculus options at Ohio State. Students earning a 1 or a 2 on either the AB or BC exam must take the Mathematics Skills Assessment.
If you experience problems during the test:
Return to https://buckeyelink3.osu.edu/secure/math, log in and return to the last question you answered. Your answers should be saved and you should be able to continue where you left off (if the test reverts to question #1, scroll forward).

If this doesn’t work or your time has run out, or if you experience any other difficulties during the test, contact the Office of Testing as soon as possible:

- 614-292-2241 (weekdays, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.)
- testing@esue.ohio-state.edu

Take the test online beginning April 1
Take the assessment at least two (2) days prior to your orientation session. Students who do not meet his deadline must arrive at Morrill Tower at 2:30 p.m. on the day before their orientation program (e.g., on Sunday for a Monday orientation date) to complete the assessment. (No testing is available on the day prior to orientation for students attending prior to June 3.)

You can only take the test once. Plan to test in a distraction-free environment in which you will be uninterrupted for 75 minutes.

☐ Go to orientation.osu.edu/placement.

☐ Log in to the test using your Ohio State Username (lastname.#) and password.

☐ Thoroughly read the instructions. Note the following:

1. You may use scratch paper, pencil and a scientific or graphing calculator. (You should not use a calculator with computer symbolic algebra or QWERTY keyboard, such as the TI-89 or TI-92.)

2. The test has a time limit of 75 minutes. The time remaining will be updated after you answer each question. **Time continues to run even if you log off of your computer or if you have computer problems.**

3. The test is multiple choice with only one correct answer per question. Partial credit is not given.

☐ Upon completing the test, click Submit.

☐ Note your placement code (L, M, N, R, S or T).

About your math placement code
When you’ve completed the test you will be given a math course code that indicates your placement level and a link for more information about math placement. The advising staff at orientation will use your course code to help you register for the appropriate math and/or science course, so be sure to bring your code with you.

In some cases, the assessment will not be able to give you a math placement level. If this happens, you will be given a placement level U (“undetermined”) instead of a math course code. **If your placement level is U, you must arrive at Morrill Tower at 7:30 a.m. on the first day of your orientation session to take an alternate assessment.**