

FROM: The Department of Mathematics, College of Staten Island

DATE: MAY 7,2015

RE: Math Proficiency and Placement Procedure (Effective Fall 2015)

This document is divided into three sections.

Section I - CUNY MATH PROFICIENCY determines if a student is ready for college level courses. If a student is deemed not proficient within one year of their admission to CUNY, he or she will be dismissed.

Section II –PLACEMENT

Listed in this section are the placement procedures for initial placement into Mathematics courses. After initial placement a student proceeds along the curriculum sequence as defined by the departmental prerequisite structure.

Every student entering CSI must take the COMPASS Exam for placement. It may also determine their proficiency if the student is not proficient by any other criteria.

Initial placement into the first math course at CSI considers many factors, such as a student's proficiency status, their COMPASS scores, their high school record or their transfer status.¹

Section III – RECOMMENDED PLACEMENT BASED ON DESIRED MAJOR

Every student must be placed into a math course that is aligned to his or her intended major.

¹ All students who want to enroll in a Baccalaureate Program at any CUNY institution must demonstrate CUNY MATH proficiency as one of the admission criterion.

<http://www.cuny.edu/academics/testing/cuny-assessment-tests/faqs.html>

Section I - CUNY MATH PROFICIENCY

Listed below are different ways a student can satisfy CUNY's skills requirements for math proficiency on entrance to CSI. Effective Fall 2015 they are:

- a) Earn at least a 70 in the new New York State Algebra I Regents exam (introduced in June 2014) and complete high school Algebra 2/ Trigonometry or a higher level course.
- b) Earn at least an 80 on any New York State Regents exam (including Integrated Algebra which is likely to be administered for the last time in June 2015) and complete high school Algebra 2/ Trigonometry or a higher level course.
- c) Present an SAT math score of 500 or higher or ACTM of 21.
- d) Document successful completion of a credit-bearing math course at a CUNY college or other regionally or New York State accredited institution (if the learning outcomes are deemed appropriate). Successful completion is a passing grade, D or better within CUNY and C or better outside of CUNY.
- e) Document successful completion of Elementary Algebra at a CUNY college or other regionally or New York State accredited institution (if the learning outcomes are deemed appropriate).
- f) Present COMPASS test scores of 40 or higher, on the Algebra module (M2 or MP2)

NOTE: Students take M2/MPL2 first. If they fail this test, only then will they take M1/MPL1.

Effective fall 2014, the following groups of current and former students will also be deemed to have met the minimum proficiency requirement in mathematics:

- g) CUNY associate degree holders
- h) Students who were proficient based on the standard in place at the time of their admission;

- i) Students who have met the current COMPASS Elementary Algebra (M2/MPL2) cut score of 40, irrespective of the Pre-Algebra (M1/MPL1) score.

Students who meet this standard qualify to take at least one credit bearing course in mathematics at any undergraduate college in the University to which they are admitted and in which they enroll.

Section II – PLACEMENT

A. PLACEMENT BY COMPASS SCORES

Every student (with the exception of transfer students) entering CSI, whether proficient or not, must take the COMPASS exam for placement.

The COMPASS exam is a computer adaptive test and has four domains:

Part I or M1/MPL1: Pre Algebra/Numerical Skills;

Part II or M2/MPL2: Algebra (includes Elementary and Intermediate Algebra);

Part III or MPL3: College Algebra;

Part V or MPL5: Trigonometry.

For students who are deemed **not proficient before COMPASS testing** start with Part M2/MPL2 of the Compass exam.

- If they pass part II (M2/MPL2) [with a score of greater than or equal to 40] then they will be deemed proficient by COMPASS scores and will be routed to parts III (MPL3) and V (MPL5) of the test. These students will be placed according to Chart 2 (attached).
- If a student fails part II (M2/MPL2) [with a score of < 40] then they are deemed non-proficient and are routed to take part I (M1/MPL1).
 - If they fail part I (M1/MPL1) [with a score of < 45] they are FF students. Refer to Chart 1 for placement.
 - If they pass part I (M1/MPL1) [with a score of ≥ 45] they are PF students. Refer to Chart 1 for placement.

All non-proficient students must enroll in MTH 020, Elementary Algebra (either through the CUNY Start Program, CSI's Immersion Program, or by enrolling in a traditional course offered by the Mathematics Department) as described in Chart 1.

Students who are deemed **proficient before COMPASS testing** take parts M2/MPL2, MPL3, and MPL5 of the COMPASS exam. The student's COMPASS scores are used for placing the student in the first math course at CSI according to Chart 2 (attached). Note that if such a student fails M2/MPL2 [score <40] they are still considered proficient and should be placed according to row 1 of Chart 2.

B. Placement by High School Record

If a student is CUNY math proficient **and** earns at least 65 or higher on the Algebra 2/Trigonometry Regents exam, he/she is eligible for placement into MTH 121 or MTH 123.

C. Placement of Transfer Students who are CUNY math proficient

Placement is based on previously earned math credits after evaluation by CSI. If no placement options are possible, the student should take the COMPASS exam in order to be placed.

Placement consists of several considerations. When A, B, or C above leads to different possible placements, select the criterion that would place the student farthest along the curricular track.

Section III – RECOMMENDED PLACEMENT BASED ON DESIRED MAJOR

1. For all STEM, SLS students, and students pursuing a BA or B.S. in Psychology the recommended course sequence begins with MTH 030, followed by MTH 123.

If these students have a part 2 COMPASS (M2/MPL2) score of 40 to 44, they are eligible to skip MTH 030 and take MTH 035 and MTH 123 in the same semester.

If these students take MTH 102 or MTH 113 and receive a B or better (B- is not eligible) then they are allowed to skip MTH 030 and may receive a waiver into MTH 123. However, this is not recommended for STEM students: STEM students should follow the two options listed above.

2. For all Business majors, the recommended course is MTH 030 followed by either MTH 121 or MTH 123.

If these students have a part 2 COMPASS (M2/MPL2) score of 40 to 44, they are eligible to skip MTH 030 and take MTH 035 and MTH 123 in the same semester.

If these students take MTH 102 or MTH 113 and receive a B or better (B- is not eligible) then they are allowed to skip MTH 030 and may receive a waiver into either MTH 121 OR MTH 123.

3. For all Liberal Arts majors (except students pursuing a B.A or B.S. in Psychology) the recommended courses are MTH 102 or MTH 113.
4. **Before Fall 2015 students pursuing a B.A. in Psychology had the option of doing MTH 113 or MTH 123. From Fall 2015, MTH 123 is the required course.**
5. **Before Fall 2015 all four-year Nursing majors were required to take MTH 108 and MTH 113. Beginning Fall 2015, MTH 113 is the required course and Mth 108 will not be offered.**