

The Department of Mathematical Sciences Placement Test Policy

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Contact Information

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About the Department of Mathematical Sciences Placement Test

The UNLV DMS offers placement testing designed to provide information about the academic skills of students entering mathematics courses at UNLV. The primary function of the placement test is to assist with determining if a student is prepared for a college level mathematics course, or if the student would benefit from a developmental course. In particular, the test is designed to assess a students' readiness for Math 120, Math 124 and Math 126, or higher placement assessments. The DMS holds the right to modify and realign test standards at any point in time. The test results are valid for one year from the test date.

Eligibility for Taking the Test

Students who have *not* met prior math prerequisites *must* take the DMS placement test. These prerequisites may include any of the following:

- sufficiently high ACT/SAT scores taken within the past 2 years
- sufficiently high math AP scores (AB or BC test)
- previous completion of a NSHE mathematics course for which a student has been appropriately placed (earning a C or better)
- appropriate transfer course from another accredited college or university (earning a C or better).

The following students *may* be eligible to take the Placement test:

- students who have completed the SAT/ACT, regardless of when taken
- students who have completed a college level mathematics course at an accredited college or university (including NSHE), independent of grade earned, or whether it has been evaluated for transfer
- students who have previously taken the DMS placement test

The following students are *not* eligible to take the Placement test:

- students who have taken the DMS placement test within the last four weeks.

It is the students' responsibility to determine eligibility or seek clarification. While it may be possible for an ineligible student to sign up, pay for and take the placement exam, the fee will not be refunded, and the exam score will be inadmissible and will not be uploaded into the system.

The Structure of the Test

The placement test is offered exclusively through the UNLV DMS. The DMS does not accept any other version of placement testing offered on or off the UNLV campus. The test is formatted as multiple choice responses. During test day, no calculators, phones, or electronic devices of any kind will be allowed in the testing facility. If needed, students will be provided with scrap paper.

Preparing for the Test

The DMS will not provide tutoring for the placement test. In addition, to maintain the integrity of the process, the DMS will not provide students with sample tests, questions or guidance on the objectives covered on the test.

Signing up for the Test

The placement test is offered throughout the year on an appointment basis. Visit the DMS website for more information. Appointments are made through the DMS. The cost of taking the placement test is \$11. Seats are limited, so students are encouraged to sign up early. To prepare to take the test, students must:

1. Go online, or contact the DMS for the dates and times that the test is administered.
2. Download or pick up the *Application for Math Placement Examination Form* from the DMS office and fill it out in entirety.
3. Present the form to the cashier's office in SSC (Student Services Center), Room 131 and pay the fee of **\$11 per exam**.
4. Take the form and receipt of payment to the DMS. The front office staff will fill in the date and time of your exam.

In coordination with SOARS (student orientation, advising and registration), the DMS will offer large group testing. Students will be able to both make an appointment in advance, or utilize walk-in appointments. Advance appointments may be available. Walk-in appointments will be offered on a first come/first served basis (space permitting). Go online or contact the DMS for times and locations .

The Day of Your Test

Test day, students must show up with a writing utensil, government issued photo identification and/or UNLV rebel card. Backpacks, cell phones, cameras or calculators are not allowed in the testing facility. It is up to the student to secure these items; the DMS will not provide storage of property outside the testing facility. Scrap paper will be provided if needed. After being checked in, students will complete the test within the time permitted. All codes of academic integrity will be honored, and any breach of academic integrity will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

Using Test Results for Placement

After the test is completed, the DMS will input the scores into the system. Once the scores are uploaded, the DMS will contact students to inform them of the classes for which they are eligible to register. Students will then be able to enroll into the appropriate level class within one year of the test date. If there are any questions or problems with enrollment, contact the DMS for assistance.