

K-State Math Placement FAQs

In an effort to ensure your success at K-State, the Academic Assistance Center and the Department of Mathematics developed an online math placement exam for all new students. Content in math courses varies between schools, therefore, we provide a math placement exam for new students to recommend enrollment into the appropriate math course at K-State.

Q: What is the format of the Mathematics Placement Exam (MPE)?

A: The exam has transitioned from the pencil-and-paper-exam to a computerized placement exam. The exam consists of multiple-choice and open-ended questions and will take approximately 45-60 minutes to complete. The score will be populated into iSIS for an advisor and student to view.

Q: What is the purpose of the MPE?

A: The purpose of the assessment is to determine a math proficiency level and recommend enrollment in the appropriate K-State math course. This exam has been internally designed to recommend a student's math skill to the appropriate math course at K-State.

Q: How many times can the student take the exam?

A: There is not a limit to the number of times a student can retake the exam.

Q: What kind of equipment is needed?

A: A student must use a web browser program (like Internet Explorer or Firefox) on a computer that has full Internet access. Almost any modern Internet connection (like those available from cable providers, DSL, dial-up, etc.) provides these services.

Q: What if something goes wrong while I am using the service?

A: We suggest students use dependable equipment on reliable internet connections, such as those available in most schools, libraries, etc. If an interruption occurs during a student's exam session, the student must attempt to reconnect and complete the exam within a 24-hour period. Once logged back in, the exam will return to the point where the exam terminated.

Q: Is there a time limit?

A: There is not a time limit to complete exam. However, please note that once you begin the exam, you must respond to a question within forty minutes or you will be timed out of the exam.

Q: How do I enter a question? Is there a way to fix a mistake?

A: You get one chance to correct a mistake. After that, the answers given are final. However, since you can take the exam as many times as you want, you may go back and do the exam again now that you are familiar with the system.

Q: Can I take the exam after I have been enrolled in classes?

A: No. The web-based placement exam is available only to those students who have been admitted to K-State, but have not yet enrolled in any class.

Q: How is the potential for dishonesty on the exam controlled?

A: We encourage students to complete the exam without the assistance of others. Dishonesty of any kind on this exam may result a course recommendation that is a higher level course in which the student may be unlikely to succeed.

Q: Is there a deadline?

A: Students should complete the MPE before attending their scheduled Orientation & Enrollment session in June. This will ensure that their placement results have been recorded and populated in iSIS before the advising time. Students who do not test prior to orientation and enrollment may experience delays in their enrollment.

Q: Must I bring a printed copy of my MPE result page to Orientation & Enrollment?

A: While it is not required, we suggest that you print a copy of your exam results for your own records.

Q: Do I have to take the test if I have already taken a college level math course? Do I have to take the test if I received a high score on the ACT?

A: Yes. This exam was designed specifically to test your preparedness for K-State math courses, and although you may have prior experience, this internally designed exam will help to place you in the most appropriate K-State math course.

Q: What if I do poorly on the exam?

A: Performance on the exam is reported as a recommendation for the student and academic advisor to use during course selection along with ACT/SAT score, transcripts, etc. Students should feel comfortable discussing their academic strengths and challenges with their academic advisor. There is no penalty for a low score on the MPE and the score does not appear on your academic transcript.

Q: Will my score on this test potentially limit me from taking a particular math course?

A: No, your academic advisor will look at the MPE score, your high school transcript, ACT/SAT score and previous math coursework to advise you on the most appropriate math class. However, the course you enroll in will be a decision between you and your advisor.