

Shippensburg University -- Placement Testing

Options for Students Testing at Level 1 in Mathematics

You have tested into math **Level 1**. As a result, you must improve your skills in math so that you are adequately prepared for college-level math. You must complete your remediation before you will be allowed to take any college-level math course. The most common path to remediation involves successful completion (with a "C" grade or better) of a developmental math course either at Ship or at another college or university. A list of equivalent courses is posted on the placement testing website. Other options that you may complete prior to coming to campus are described below.

If you have expressed interest in a major that requires a significant amount of math (including Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Math, Economics, Computer Science, Business, or Middle Level teacher certification), your remediation may begin your first semester. Otherwise, it will typically begin in your second year.

TO IMPROVE YOUR MATHEMATICAL SKILLS, YOU HAVE FOUR OPTIONS:

Prior to starting classes:

1. Enroll in MAT 050 Developmental Mathematics at Shippensburg University during the summer.

OR...

2. Enroll in a course equivalent to MAT 050 Developmental Math at another college or university.

OR...

3. Review and pass the waiver exam.

OR...

Once classes have started:

4. Remediate by taking MAT 050 Developmental Math during the regular academic year at Shippensburg University.

Details for each option are listed below:

OPTION #1 (prior to coming to campus): Enroll in MAT 050 Developmental Mathematics at Shippensburg University during the summer.

In the summer, the university may offer MAT 050: Developmental Mathematics either online or in a traditional face to face format during Term V. This is a basic algebra course. Earning a "C" in this course is similar to passing the placement test into a higher level. You will not be required to retest. Passing MAT 050 makes you eligible for MAT140A College Algebra (4 cr). If you receive a grade below a "C" in MAT 050, you will need to repeat the class. Schedule early as classes may be cancelled due to a lack of enrollment. If MAT 050 is strongly recommended for the summer based on your major, you can access additional information through the placement testing website (www.ship.edu/testing).

OPTION #2 (prior to coming to campus): Enroll in a course similar to MAT 050 Developmental Mathematics at another college or university.

MAT 050 is a basic algebra or algebra I course. Eligible courses are listed on a separate page (see www.ship.edu/testing under the Options Based on Placement tab). If you take a course at another institution, you must earn a grade of "C" or better in this course. (If you receive less than a "C" in the course, this will not satisfy your remediation requirement. Earning a "C" is similar to passing the placement test into Level 3. You will then register for the appropriate college-level math class, depending on your major. You will not be required to retake the placement test.

Please complete a Placement Testing Transcript Request Form found on the testing website. This enables our office to send the necessary documentation to the appropriate college official where you are scheduling this course.

A transcript of your grade must be sent to the Office of Admissions, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA 17257. Check with the Placement Testing Office before you schedule a course at a community college. Send transcripts as early as possible.

OPTION #3 (prior to coming to campus): Review and pass the waiver exam.

The mathematics department offers students a chance to satisfy their remediation requirement by passing a waiver exam which is equivalent to the final exam for MAT 050. Information about the pre-test waiver exam along with a sample exam can be found at <http://webspace.ship.edu/kjpres/MAT050/>. To prepare for the exam, students can work with their own private tutor in their hometown or use the MyMathTest online program for structured review. Information on the MyMathTest review program is available at the above link as well. When a student is prepared for the waiver exam, they need to contact, Pam McLaughlin, at (717) 477-1431 in the Mathematics Department Office at Shippensburg University to schedule an appointment to come in and take the waiver exam.

OPTION #4 (once classes have started): Remediate at Shippensburg University.

You will enroll, at the appropriate time, in MAT 050 Developmental Math. This is a basic algebra class. If you take MAT 050 at Shippensburg University, you must earn a grade of "C" or better in this course. (If you receive less than a "C" in the course, this will not satisfy your remediation requirement and you will be expected to repeat the class your very next semester at SHIP.) Earning a "C" is similar to passing the placement test at the college-low level. You will then schedule the appropriate college-level math class, depending on your major. You will not be required to retake the placement test.

*****Please note that developmental courses, whether taken at Shippensburg University or elsewhere, do not count toward graduation.*****