

USD Math Placement Policy

The Math Placement Policy is designed to help students be successful in the course in which they enroll. Here at USD we use the following guideline for initial placements and students can consult the chair of the Department of Mathematical Sciences if they would like to challenge their placement. Most challenges will be done via the Accuplacer exam.

Students placing above Math 104 will take a placement exam (currently the Accuplacer) to determine their placement. This usually takes place as students come to campus for one of the fast track orientations during the summer to register for classes. It can also take place remotely at your high school. On the exam, there are no calculators allowed but there is an online calculator one can access during the exam.

Course(s)	Enhanced ACT Scores	COMPASS Scores	ACCUPLACER
PRE GENERAL EDUCATION			
Math 095	ACT Math: 1- 19	Pre-Algebra: 0-100 OR Algebra 0-40	Arithmetic: 0-120 OR Elm Algebra 0-75
GENERAL EDUCATION			
MATH 102 College Algebra MATH 103 Quantitative Literacy MATH 104 Finite Mathematics	ACT Math: 20 or higher**	Algebra: 41 to 100 or College Algebra: 0 to 62	Elm: Algebra 76-120 OR College Level: 0-50
MATH 115 Precalculus MATH 120 Trigonometry MATH 121 Survey of Calculus Math 201, Introduction to Discrete Mathematics	ACT Scores Not Used	College Algebra: 63 to 100 and/or Trigonometry: 0-39	College Level: 51+ or Calculus Readiness: 0-21
MATH 123 Calculus I	ACT Scores Not Used	Trigonometry: 40-100	Calculus Readiness: 22+

** Students with an ACT of 20 or higher can enroll in Math 102 without additional placement testing.

** In addition, students can place into these categories with a Smarter Balance Math sub-score of level 3 or level 4