A Student’s Guide to Mathematics at CLC

College of Lake County
Grayslake | Lakeshore | Southlake
Mathematics at CLC

The College of Lake County’s Mathematics Department serves the needs of many different types of students, from math majors to students who enroll in math to meet degree requirements. The math courses you take will depend upon your program of study and your level of skill in mathematics.

**Transfer students** take college-level courses, provided they meet the prerequisites for these courses. In selecting their math courses, students should check the specific requirements of the college or university where they plan to transfer after CLC. College-level math courses at CLC have an **even number** other than zero in the middle of the course number.

**Career program students** take courses that have an applied mathematics focus. These courses have an **odd number** in the middle digit of their CLC course number.
Math Placement and Prerequisites

The important thing to remember about placement and prerequisites is that the prerequisites for each course have been developed to help ensure that students have the skills they need to be successful in the course.

CLC has two types of requirements that affect enrollment in math courses.

1) Basic Algebra Readiness:
   You must demonstrate that you have a basic level of algebra readiness before enrolling in certain courses. This means that you must demonstrate a certain level of competency in arithmetic, which includes problem solving involving integers, fractions, ratios, decimals and percents. The courses requiring basic algebra readiness are generally in math or other science or technology-related fields, and these courses are identified in the CLC class schedule and the college catalog.

   You can satisfy the Basic Algebra Readiness requirement in a number of ways, including achieving a satisfactory math score on the ACT (17 or above), SAT (450 or above) or the Arithmetic portion of the CLC Math Placement Test (56 or above). Other options for meeting the requirement are outlined on the college’s website at www.clcillinois.edu/prereqs.
Note: Basic Algebra Readiness does not meet the requirement for college-level mathematics courses.

2) Prerequisites:
You must also demonstrate that you meet the mathematics prerequisites for the specific course you wish to take. Again, these requirements have been designed to help ensure that you have the skills to be successful in your coursework.

The best way to identify the prerequisites for a specific math course is to consult the college’s current class schedule or the college catalog. Each course description includes the prerequisites that apply. The charts in this brochure also are a handy reference. In general, these guidelines apply:

- For many math courses, the prerequisites can be met by achieving an acceptable score on CLC’s Math Placement Test or the ACT or SAT test. Previous college coursework may also fulfill the prerequisites.

- College-level math courses also require Geometry Proficiency. Geometry Proficiency can be demonstrated by earning a “C” or better in MTH 104 (Geometry) or by submitting a high school transcript showing that you received a “C” or better in one year of high school geometry.

- Students who are Basic Algebra Ready can meet the prerequisite for Quantitative Literacy (MTH 141) and Contemporary Mathematics (MTH 140) with two years of approved high school algebra courses (“C” or better) and Geometry Proficiency.

- In most mathematics courses at CLC, you must earn a “C” or above in a course in order to move onto the next level course. However, there are courses that require a “B” or better in the previous course.
What sequence of Math Courses is right for me?

The sequence of math courses you take depends on your program of study and your level of skill in mathematics. The following charts can help you determine the sequence of math courses you take as well as the prerequisites required. Where you start in the sequence will be based upon prerequisites and/or your score on the CLC Math Placement Test.

The courses within the gray box are DEVELOPMENTAL CLASSES and do not apply toward any associate degree or career certificate program.

* Prerequisite for this course can be met with Math Placement Test or specific ACT/SAT scores.

1 Prerequisite for this course can be met with either the Math Placement Test or specific ACT/SAT score, provided a student has Geometry Proficiency.

2 See an advisor/counselor for information on meeting the prerequisite for this course.

+ Geometry Proficiency may be demonstrated by submitting a high school transcript showing a “C” or better in one year of high school geometry or by earning a “C” or better in MTH 104 (Geometry).

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NOTE:
The courses within the gray box are DEVELOPMENTAL CLASSES and do not apply toward any associate degree or career certificate program.
Pursuing an A.A. in **GENERAL EDUCATION**?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MTH 106</td>
<td>Intermediate Algebra A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>MTH 108* Intermediate Algebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTH 140*</td>
<td>Contemporary Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTH 141*</td>
<td>Quantitative Literacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTH 2221</td>
<td>Elementary Statistics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students who are Basic Algebra Ready can meet the prerequisite for MTH 140 and MTH 141 with two years of High School Algebra (C or better) – AND – Geometry Proficiency.

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Pursuing an A.A. in ELEMENTARY EDUCATION?

**MTH 107**
Intermediate Algebra B

**OR**

**MTH 108***
Intermediate Algebra

**MTH 121**
Mathematics For Elementary Teaching I

**MTH 221**
Mathematics For Elementary Teaching II

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Developmental Mathematics

Developmental mathematics courses prepare students to be successful in college-level mathematics courses. These carefully constructed courses are designed to give students a firm mathematical foundation and are a necessary starting point for many students.

Faculty at the College of Lake County believe that placing students at an appropriate level is crucial to a student’s current and future success. Placement testing helps ensure that students begin their mathematical journey at the most appropriate stage. If you have not taken a math course in a while, consider taking the CLC Math Placement Test to assess your current level of knowledge.

Knowing yourself is an important factor in your success. Combine the feedback you received from test scores and grades with an honest assessment of your own strengths and limitations. Discuss your registration options with a counselor or a math advisor to decide which courses are most appropriate for your situation.

Although a grade earned in a developmental course does not affect your CLC Grade Point Average (GPA), your grade in a developmental mathematics course DOES matter for these reasons:

Financial Aid:
The cumulative GPA that is reported for financial aid purposes includes grades earned in developmental courses. Federal and state regulations require that students make satisfactory and measurable academic progress in order to continue to be eligible for federal and state financial aid.
NOTE: Developmental mathematics courses at the College of Lake County have a zero in the middle digit of their CLC course number.

Based on the results of standardized tests (ACT or SAT), high school transcripts and/or the CLC Math Placement Test, students may be required to complete one or more developmental mathematics classes prior to enrolling in a college-level mathematics course.

**Registration Options:**
Better grades increase your registration options for next semester. Many courses require a grade of “C” or better in the prerequisite course. Some courses require a grade of “B” or better in the prerequisite course. Students who earn a grade of “D” or “F” in a class will be required to retake the class before they can progress to the next level.

**Future Success:**
It is always important to do your very best in your mathematics classes. Mathematics is a subject that relies heavily on previously learned topics. An incomplete understanding of previous concepts can hinder your success in the next class.
Advice for Success in Mathematics

Take math courses early in your program of study.
It is best to take your math courses early in your academic career and in consecutive semesters. By taking your math classes without a break, you'll help ensure that you retain what you've learned. Additionally, the critical thinking skills you gain will help you as you progress through your courses in other subjects. Seek advice from a counselor or an advisor early in your program to discuss which mathematics courses are right for you.

Keep a positive attitude.
Mathematics is not a barrier that keeps you from your goals but a means to move you forward. To take minimal mathematics is to shut the door on many exciting career opportunities. In our increasingly technological society, quantitative skills are critical. The study of mathematics is becoming more and more important for all citizens.

When taking mathematics, be an active learner.
Mathematics is a subject that builds on previous concepts. It is important to come to all classes, participate in class, do all homework the day it is assigned, read the textbook, study for exams and quizzes and seek help as soon as something is unclear. Plan on spending two hours outside of class for every hour that you spend in class each week. You learn mathematics by doing mathematics!

If you experience difficulties, seek help from your instructor.
If you find that you are having any difficulties in your math courses, consult your instructor for help as soon as possible.

Visit the Math Center for additional help.
The Math Center provides free tutoring for CLC math students by trained professionals as well as by fellow students. Tutoring is available on a drop-in basis. The Math Center is located in the Learning Resource Center at the Grayslake campus, at the Lakeshore Campus (Waukegan) and at the Southlake Campus (Vernon Hills).

To learn more about the Math Center, visit www.clcillinois.edu/mathcenter.
For more Information—

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