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Are You Ready for College Math?

No matter what your major is, you will have to take some math in college.

Expectations

College-level math will expand on the fundamental concepts you learned in high school. Most colleges will expect that you have taken at least four years of math, including:

- Algebra I
- Algebra II
- Geometry
- Pre-Calculus, Trigonometry, or Calculus

If you want to study engineering, medicine, or computer programming, math, geology, and other natural sciences, or a related subject you will have to take multiple college-level math courses, including calculus. Your acceptance into a math and science college often depends on your performance in high school math classes – these schools look for As and Bs!

If you want to study English, history, psychology, education, a social science, or a related subject you should find out what the math requirement is for your major at the colleges where you will apply.

Placement Tests

Colleges usually require a math placement test. Take your placement test seriously! They are not easy, and most do not allow the use of calculators. Placement exams usually cover all areas of high school math, including algebra I and II, geometry, and some form of calculus.

If you do not pass your math placement exam, you might be placed in remedial classes. Many remedial classes will not count towards your degree meaning you will have to pay for them, but you will not receive credit.

Resources

For practice problems and review, visit:

WYZANT

www.wyzant.com/resources/lessons/math

Khan Academy

www.khanacademy.org

Sample Question

Taken from Barton College Practice Placement Test

24. Solve: $(2x - 3)^2 - 8 = 0$

a) $x = \frac{3 \pm 2\sqrt{2}}{2}$

b) $x = 3, -2$

c) $x = -3 \pm 2\sqrt{2}$

d) $x = \frac{-3 \pm 2\sqrt{2}}{2}$

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