**What math class should I take first?**

I. **What do I need?**
   
   This is a general guideline. **Talk with an advisor familiar with your program** to be sure you understand what is required! The circled courses satisfy the UK Core Quantitative Foundations requirement. (There are also courses in other departments which satisfy this requirement, such as PHI 120.)

   ![](image)

   **Many non-technical majors**
   - MA 111
     - Contemporary Math
   - MA 109
     - College Algebra
   - MA 110
     - Precalculus
   - MA 123
     - Elementary Calculus
   - MA 113/
     - MA 137
     - Calculus I / Calculus I for Life Sciences
   - MA 113
     - Calculus I
   - MA 137
     - Calculus I for Life Sciences
   - MA 114
   - MA 138
   - MA 162
   - MA 123
   - MA 113
   - MA 137
   - MA 114
   - MA 138
   - MA 162

II. **What am I ready for?**
   
   You are **permitted** to take any course for which you qualify by any index. Generally, the MathIndex3 is the most reliable indicator for success. We encourage students to discuss their choice with their advisors, especially if you are on the borderline or if the indices differ in recommendation. Students with transfer credit can be placed based on their prior coursework.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>MathIndex3</th>
<th>Math ACT</th>
<th>Math SAT</th>
<th>ALEKS (proctored)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MA 111 Contemporary Math</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA 109 College Algebra</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA 110 Precalculus</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA 123 Elementary Calculus</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA 113/MA 137 Calculus I / Calculus I for Life Sciences</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
III. Beyond the chart

A. Calculus AP Credit

Calculus AB Exam: A score of 3 or higher will give credit for MA 113.

Need more math?
• A score of 4 or 5, we recommend beginning in MA 114 or MA 138.
• A score of 3, we recommend retaking MA 113 or MA 137.

Calculus BC Exam: A score of 3 or higher will give credit for MA 114.

Need more math?
• A score of 4 or 5, we recommend beginning in MA 213.
• A score of 3, we recommend retaking MA 114 or MA 138.

B. Alternate path to MA 113 or MA 137

If you have already taken MA 123 and received a B or higher, you are permitted to register for MA 113 or MA 137. (This is intended to simplify the program of students who take MA 123 and then change to a major that requires a different calculus course. Note that these courses assume a good working knowledge of trigonometry. Entering students who plan to take MA 113/137 are better served by taking MA 110 as this course covers topics such as trigonometry.)

C. Developmental Math

If you do not yet qualify for MA 111, you may be required to take either a special section of UK 101 (Math ACT below 18), or a special version of MA 111 (Math ACT 18). Talk with your advisor about any questions regarding your placement and path.

D. Other circumstances

This page can address the needs for most students, but there are always a few exceptional cases. If you have transfer credit, have taken placement exams other than those mentioned, or have any other circumstance that affects your math placement, please discuss this with your advisor, who will consult with the math department.

E. About MathIndex3

The MathIndex3 is our most reliable indicator for placement. It is a linear combination of the unweighted high school GPA (on a 4-point scale) and math ACT (or converted SAT for students who do not have ACT). More specifically, it is

\[
\text{MathIndex3} = 8.333 \times \text{HSGPA} + 1.852 \times \text{Math ACT}
\]

F. For more information about placement, overrides, MathExcel, CLEP exams, and many other topics, see https://math.as.uky.edu/100-level-courses

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