ACADEMIC PLACEMENT

Assessment of Academic Preparation and Placement

The CSU requires that all entering first year students be evaluated in terms of their preparation to complete first-year courses in written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning. This evaluation utilizes the broadest set of multiple measures including high school grades as well as performance scores on standardized exams such as the ACT or SAT. This evaluation of academic readiness is not a condition for admission to the CSU, but it is an important step for determining the best course placement for entering students.

Successful completion of general education (GE) written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses in the first year of CSU enrollment establishes a foundation for continuous learning. Unless the requirements have been completed prior to the student’s first term on campus, first year students shall enroll in GE written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses appropriate to each student’s major and skill level, as demonstrated by applicable systemwide standards utilized in the review of academic preparation.

Students whose pre-college skill assessments indicate supplemental academic support will foster successful completion of GE written communication or mathematics/quantitative courses shall enroll in appropriate college-level, baccalaureate credit-bearing courses that strengthen skills development to facilitate achieving the appropriate general education student learning outcomes. Supportive course models may include, among others, co-requisite approaches, supplemental instruction, or “stretch” formats that extend a course beyond one academic term. In these approaches, instructional content considered pre-baccalaureate may carry a maximum of one unit and shall be offered concurrently with a college-level, baccalaureate credit-bearing course.

Multiple Measures Assessment for General Education Written Communication

Based on the systemwide assessment standards for GE written communication below, first year students shall enroll in appropriate GE written communication courses during their first academic year unless the requirement has been fulfilled.

• Students who have met the following requirements have fulfilled the GE Written Communication requirement in preparation for advanced courses:
  • A score of 3 or above on either the Language and Composition examination or the Composition and Literature examination of the College Board Scholastic Advanced Placement Program
  • Completion and transfer to the CSU of the credits for a college course that satisfies the CSU GE requirement in written composition, provided such a course was completed with a grade of C- or better

• Students who have met the following requirements are ready to enroll in a course that meets the GE Written Communication requirement:
  • A result of ‘Standard Exceeded: Ready for CSU’ or participating CCC college-level coursework in English’ on the CAASPP Early Assessment Program (EAP) exam
  • A score of 50 or above on the College Board College Level Assessment Program (CLAC) test
  • A score of 550 or higher on the Evidence Based Reading and Writing section of the new SAT Reasoning Test sponsored by the College Board
  • A score of 500 or higher on the Evidence Based Reading and Writing section of the old SAT Reasoning Test sponsored by the College Board

Multiple Measures Assessment for General Education Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning

Based on the systemwide assessment standards for GE mathematics/quantitative reasoning below, first year students shall enroll in appropriate general education mathematics/quantitative reasoning courses during their first academic year unless the requirement has been fulfilled.

• Students who have met the following requirements have fulfilled the GE Math/Quantitative Reasoning requirement and are permitted to enroll in the next level of math:
  • A score of 3 or above on the College Board Advanced Placement Calculus AB or Calculus BC test
  • A score of 4 or above on the College Board Advanced Placement Statistics test
  • A score of 5 on the International Baccalaureate Mathematics Higher Level (HL)
  • A score of 50 or above on the College Board College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Calculus, College Algebra, College Algebra-Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, or Trigonometry
• Completion and transfer to the CSU of the credits for a college course that satisfies the CSU General Education requirement in mathematics/quantitative reasoning, provided such a course was completed with a grade of C- or better

• Students who are STEM majors who have met the following requirements are ready to enroll in a course that meets the GE Math/Quantitative Reasoning requirement:
  - A result of ‘Standard Exceeded: Ready for CSU or participating CCC college-level coursework in mathematics’ on the CAASPP Early Assessment Program (EAP) exam
  - A score of 570 or above on the mathematics section of the new SAT Reasoning Test
  - A score of 550 or above on the mathematics section of the old SAT Reasoning Test
  - A score of 550 or above on the SAT Subject Test in Mathematics (level 1 or level 2)
  - A score of 23 or above on the ACT Mathematics test
  - Completion of a 12th grade mathematics course beyond algebra 2 with a grade of C- or better and a score of 520-560 on the new SAT mathematics test or a score of 490-540 on the old SAT mathematics test
  - Completion of a 12th grade mathematics course beyond algebra 2 with a grade of C- or better and a score of 20-22 on the ACT Mathematics test
  - A result of ‘Standard Met: Conditionally Ready for CSU or participating CCC college-level coursework in mathematics’ on the CAASPP Early Assessment Program (EAP) exam and completion of an approved senior year course

• Students who are Non-STEM majors who have met the following requirements are ready to enroll in a course that meets the GE Math/Quantitative Reasoning requirement and includes supported instruction:
  - Achievement of a high school GPA ≥ 3.3
  - Achievement of a weighted high school GPA ≥ 3.0
  - Students who have met the following requirements are required to participate in the Early Start Program and are ready to enroll in a course that meets the GE Math/Quantitative Reasoning requirement and includes supported instruction:
    - A score less than 510 on the mathematics section of the old SAT Reasoning test AND a high school GPA ≤ 3.2
    - A score less than 20 on the ACT Mathematics test AND a high school GPA ≤ 3.2

Early Start Program

The Early Start Program serves CSU admitted first year students who have not demonstrated college readiness in written communication and/or mathematics/quantitative reasoning as determined by systemwide placement standards. Participation in the Early Start Program is required for students needing skills development in these areas; students will be expected to enroll in a written communication course or a mathematics/quantitative reasoning course (but not both) during the summer period prior to the start of the fall term. Students required to participate in the Early Start Program may choose to enroll at any CSU campus; the earned credit will be transferred seamlessly to the student’s destination campus.

The goals of the Early Start Program are to:

• Better prepare students in written communication and mathematics/quantitative reasoning before the start of the fall quarter of the first year;
• Add an important and timely assessment tool in preparing students for college; and
• Improve the opportunity for students to successfully complete their college degrees.
Cal Poly Mathematics Placement Examination (MAPE)

The Cal Poly Mathematics Placement Exams are diagnostic exams given by the Mathematics Department to place students in the appropriate college-level math course. The MAPE is not intended for all students, so please read the following information carefully.

Precalculus MAPE

Students who anticipate taking Trigonometry or Calculus (MATH 119, MATH 141, MATH 161, or MATH 221) must pass the precalculus MAPE unless they have presented proof of one of the following exemptions:

- a new SAT score of 620 or above on the mathematics section of the new SAT
- an old SAT score of 600 or above on the mathematics section of the old SAT Reasoning Test
- an SAT Subject Test score of 600 or above on the SAT Subject Test in Mathematics (level 1 or level 2)
- a score of 26 or above on the American College Testing (ACT) Mathematics Test
- a score of 3 or above on the College Board Advanced Placement Mathematics (Calculus AB or BC) examination
- completion of MATH 117 or MATH 118 at Cal Poly or transfer of a college course equivalent to MATH 118
- Transferable credit from another College/University in a course equivalent to MATH 118.

*NOTE: For MATH 141, students must also have credit for college or high school trigonometry, completed with grade C or better.*

Intermediate Algebra MAPE

Students who anticipate taking Precalculus Algebra (MATH 118) must pass the intermediate algebra MAPE unless they have presented proof of one of the following exemptions:

For MATH 118:

- a new SAT score of 570 or above on the mathematics section of the new SAT
- an old SAT score of 550 or above on the mathematics section of the old SAT Reasoning Test
- an SAT Subject Test score of 550 or above on the SAT Subject Test in Mathematics (level 1 or level 2)
- a score of 23 or above on the American College Testing (ACT) Mathematics Test; or
- a score of 65 or above on the ELM test.

*NOTE: Students who have satisfied the ELM requirement and are planning to take MATH 112 or MATH 116 do not need to take the MAPE.*

Elementary Algebra MAPE

Only students eligible to enroll in a course that meets the GE Math/Quantitative Reasoning requirement that includes supported instruction as outlined in the academic placement guidelines above (Multiple Measures Assessment for General Education Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning) are eligible to take the Elementary Algebra MAPE.

A passing score will allow students to enroll in an unsupported GE Math/Quantitative Reasoning course.

Students who need to take a math placement exam must do so prior to enrollment. The MAPE is free and offered regularly throughout the year. For information, please visit [http://math.calpoly.edu/mape](http://math.calpoly.edu/mape) or contact the ELM/MAPE Office (805-756-2268).