

Math Self-Placement Guidance for Students

Due to CoVID-19, students are unable to take the Virginia Placement Test (VPT) to determine readiness for college-level math.

This guide is to help you determine which mathematics course you are ready to take. Note that practice placement test is **highly encouraged**, but not required for enrollment in MTH 111, 133, 154, 161 or 167.

Do you need MTH 154?

1. To help determine your readiness for the course you need, take the **online** practice Virginia Placement Test (VPT) for math. Take the assessment called “units 1 – 5.” You can find directions for accessing the practice VPT here: [Accessing the Free Online VPT Math Practice Test \[PDF\]](#)
2. Did you score at least an 80% on each of the 5 units? Then you are likely prepared to be successful in MTH 154. You are welcome to enroll!
3. If you did not score at least an 80% on all 5 units, you may be not be prepared to be successful in MTH 154. We **highly recommend** that you take MTH 154 with MCR 4 or that you take MTT first.
 - a. Taking MTH 154 with MCR 4: MCR 4 is a 2-credit support course specifically for students who are not quite ready for MTH 154. Look in the schedule of classes for MTH 154 sections that have the letter “C.”
 - b. Taking MTT (developmental math) first: Depending on your skills, you may be encouraged to take MTT1, MTT2 or MTT3. Talk to your advisor or contact mathplacement@nvcc.edu.

Do you need MTH 161 or 167 (precalculus)?

1. To help determine your readiness for the course you need, take the **online** practice Virginia Placement Test (VPT) for math. Take the assessments called “units 1 – 5” and “units 6 – 9” (a total of 9 units). You can find directions for accessing the practice VPT here: [Accessing the Free Online VPT Math Practice Test \[PDF\]](#)
2. Did you score at least an 80% on each of the 9 units? Then you are likely prepared to be successful in precalculus. You are welcome to enroll!
3. If you did not score at least an 80% on all 9 units, you may be not be prepared to be successful in precalculus. We **highly recommend** that you take MTH 161 with MCR 6 or that you take MTT first.
 - a. Taking MTH 161 with MCR 6. MCR 6 is a 2-credit support course specifically for students who are almost, but not quite ready for MTH 161. Look in the schedule of classes for MTH 161 sections that have the letter “C.”
 - b. Taking MTT (developmental math) first, especially if you did not score at least an 80% on at least of 7 of the 9 units. Depending on your skills, you may be encouraged to take MTT1, MTT2 or MTT3. Talk to your advisor or contact mathplacement@nvcc.edu.

Specialty courses: Placing into MTH 111 or MTH 133

MTH 111 is intended for students who are in some career and technical fields/degree programs. Students should check degree requirements before enrolling in this course. MTH 133 is specifically intended for students pursuing the Vet Tech program of study.

1. To help determine your readiness for the course you need, take the online practice Virginia Placement Test (VPT) for math. Take the assessment called “units 1 – 5.” You can find directions for accessing the practice VPT here: [Accessing the Free Online VPT Math Practice Test \[PDF\]](#)
2. Did you score at least an 80% on units 1, 2 and 3? Then you are likely prepared to be successful in MTH 111 or MTH 133. You are welcome to enroll!
3. If you did not score at least an 80% on each units 1, 2 and 3, you may need some review before taking MTH 111 or MTH 133. Consider taking MTT (developmental math) first. Talk to your advisor or contact mathplacement@nvcc.edu.

Higher-level math: Placing into MTH 245, 261 or 263:

You have the opportunity to demonstrate your readiness for MTH 245 (Statistics I), MTH 261 (Applied Calculus I) or MTH 263 (Calculus I).

1. If you have already placed *into* precalculus, you are permitted to take a virtual assessment in Canvas to demonstrate your readiness.
 - a. Contact your First Year Advisor, Counseling Center or mathplacement@nvcc.edu to determine if you have already placed *into* precalculus.
 - b. Contact NOVATesting@nvcc.edu to take the virtual assessment in Canvas.
2. If you have not already placed *into* precalculus, your first step is to take the **online** practice Virginia Placement Test (VPT) for math. You can find directions for accessing the practice VPT here: [Accessing the Free Online VPT Math Practice Test \[PDF\]](#)
 - a. Take all four assessments: units 1 – 5, 6 – 9, calc no trig, and calc with trig.
 - b. If you score at least a 75% on each of the four assessments, your next step is to take a virtual assessment in Canvas.
 - c. Contact NOVATesting@nvcc.edu to take the virtual assessment in Canvas.
3. Your score on the virtual assessment in Canvas will determine your readiness for MTH 245, 261 or 263.

FAQs:

How do I know which math I need?

Since the credit-level math course you take depends on your program of study (“major”), you should consult the College Catalog <https://www.nvcc.edu/catalog/index.html> or your advisement report <https://www.nvcc.edu/novaconnect/students/tuts/advising/report.html>

Need more help? Contact AcademicAdvising@nvcc.edu
You can find additional resource for remote student support here:
<https://www.nvcc.edu/safe-campus/services/index.html#>

Can I take the practice placement test more than once?

Yes, you can take the practice placement test up to 3 times. Note that this test is meant for guidance only. The first attempt may be the one that best reflects your knowledge, skills and abilities. We want to make sure that you take a course where you can be successful.

How do I place into MTH 162 (Precalculus II)?

You must meet the same criteria to place into MTH 261 (see above). Contact mathplacement@nvcc.edu so we can assist you.