

Math Course Pathways and Placement Criteria

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Academic/Degree Progression

Policy Owner: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Effective date: March 4, 2019

Approval date: April 16, 2026

Schedule for Review: 2031

Policy Summary:

This policy adopts the recommendations of the Colorado Math Pathways Task Force to direct students into the math course most appropriate for their intended major.

Policy Statement:

SECTION I: MATH PATHWAYS

1. The Colorado Math Pathways Task Force has established the following two mathematics pathways for students:
 1. Calculus pathway, for STEM majors;
 2. Quantitative Thinking and Statistics pathway, for arts, business, humanities, and early childhood/elementary education and social science majors.
1. Fort Lewis College will determine initial mathematics placements for each new or returning student prior registration.
2. The math pathway for each major is detailed in the four-year and transfer maps to graduation and the Liberal Arts Core section of the Catalog of Courses (beginning with the 2017 – 2018 catalog).
3. All students who wish to enroll in a math course, including those not seeking a baccalaureate degree, must meet published placement criteria.

SECTION II: PLACEMENT CRITERIA

1. Placement criteria will be based on institutional research on student success and will comply with Colorado Commission on Higher Education Statewide Developmental Education and Supplemental Academic Instruction policies.
 1. Placement criteria are published as an Appendix to this policy and are subject to approval by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Chair of the Department of Mathematics may recommend revision of the math placement criteria at any time.
2. Initial placements are based on:
 1. ACT, SAT, or Accuplacer Mathematics test scores or ALEKS placement test scores no more than three calendar years old, or remedial/developmental or transfer coursework with grades of C- or

higher, or Fort Lewis College coursework with grades of D- or higher, or coursework through credit by examination that is no more than five calendar years old.

2. If a student does not have ACT, SAT, Accuplacer math scores or ALEKS placement test scores, other exams can be used for placement if minimum scores for those exams have been published in the Colorado's Developmental Education and there are published concordances between that exam and ACT or SAT scores.
3. If a student has multiple test scores that can be used for placement, their placement will be determined by the highest of those scores.
4. If a student has both an eligible test score and eligible coursework, their placement will be determined by the higher of the two.
5. If a student does not have eligible test scores or coursework, the student will receive default placement as determined by the [FLC Math Placement Quick Guide](#)
6. If they would like to challenge this placement, they may take an ALEKS placement test and ask that their placement be reassessed.
7. Other criteria predictive of student success, such as grade point average, can also be used in determining placement.

3. Individual petitions for exceptions to the placement criteria may be made to the chair of the Department of Mathematics.

4. Placements based on exams are updated regularly to account for expired test scores. Placements can also be updated upon request to account for new test scores.

5. Initial placement based on coursework will stay valid while the student is enrolled at Fort Lewis college, and will not change as that coursework ages. After initial coursework based placement, prerequisites will be used determine eligibility for the next level of math coursework.

Reason for Policy:

This policy adopts the recommendations of the Colorado Math Pathways Task Force to direct students into math courses most appropriate for their intended major.

Responsibilities:

For following the policy: All undergraduate students

For oversight of the policy: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

For determination of placement criteria: Chair of the Department of Mathematics

For procedures for implementing policy: Registrar

For enforcement of the policy: Registrar

Review and Revision History:

The Appendix to this policy was revised on April 6, 2017 to make the minimum score for Math 100 placement an ACT Math 15 or SAT 370-390 (old) or SAT 410-490 (new) based on a decision by Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Appendix was revised on January 17, 2017 to reflect a change in the Statewide Remedial Education Policy section 8.00 making the minimum score for Math 100 placement 61 on the Accuplacer Elementary Algebra test. The Accuplacer Elementary Algebra criterion for placement into Math 100 was revised to be 57-60 based on a decision by the Assistant Vice President

for Academic Affairs. The minimum GPA for Math 100 placement of 2.80 did not change in either the April 6, 2017 or January 17, 2017 revisions. Revised April 2025 to update math rubric link and replace Accuplacer with FLC Math Placement Test. Revised April 2026 to update math rubric link and replace FLC Math Placement with ALEKS Placement.

Appendix:

Mathematics_Chart - updated May 15, 2019