

Calculus I Placement Exam – FAQs

What is the Calculus I Placement Exam?

The Calculus I placement exam is an online assessment used to determine if a student is prepared to take Calculus I (MATH-1300) at Benedictine College.

Who is required to take the Calculus I Placement Exam?

The exam is recommended for any student who needs Calculus I for his or her degree plan but has not earned a grade of 'C' or better in a college-level Pre-Calculus course or earned a 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement Calculus (AB or BC) exam.

What majors require Calculus I?

Astronomy, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Engineering Physics, Mechanical Engineering, Mathematics, and Physics require Calculus I.

I plan to major in Engineering or Physics; is there any special advice for me?

You are encouraged to take the exam as soon as it is available. If you are placed in Pre-Calculus, this gives you the option of taking a Pre-Calculus course over the summer. Taking Calculus I in your first semester will help you avoid unnecessary delays in graduation. Benedictine College plans to offer a summer online Pre-Calculus course if there is sufficient interest from incoming freshmen.

I passed Pre-Calculus in high school. Do I need to take the exam?

Yes, high school level Pre-Calculus does not fulfill the pre-requisite curriculum to take Calculus I. High school Pre-Calculus curriculum is unregulated and varies drastically from school to school. Unfortunately, many students who earn a grade of 'A' in high school Pre-Calculus are underprepared for Calculus at the college level.

I took Pre-Calculus for college credit at another college/university. Do I need to take the exam?

You do not need to take the exam if you earned a grade of 'C' or better in a Pre-Calculus course at another college or university. The successful completion of Pre-Calculus through dual credit, PSEO, or similar programs is also sufficient.

I earned a 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus (AB or BC) Exam. Do I need to take the exam?

You do not need to take the exam if you earned a 4 or 5 on the AP Calculus (AB or BC) exam. In this case, you will be placed in Calculus II or III. If you choose to abandon your AP credit, your options are to take Pre-Calculus (MATH-1250) or to take the placement exam.

When is the Calculus I Placement Exam offered?

The exam is available online June 1 – July 25. In addition, we have reserved time at each SOAR Weekend (June 2-3 and June 9-10) to take the placement exam. You will receive instructions on the time and location when you arrive for SOAR.

How do I take the online Calculus Placement Exam?

Starting in June, an email notification will be sent with instructions on how to access and take the exam. In short, you will be enrolled in a placement class in Blackboard (a web-based learning environment).

Is there a cost associated with the exam?

No. The exam is offered at no charge to the student.

Is there a deadline to take the exam?

The deadline to take the exam and still be placed in Calculus I in the fall semester is July 25. We strongly encourage you take the exam as early as possible.

How long does the exam take?

The 70-minute exam is timed; you cannot pause it.

When will I know my results?

Upon completion of the exam, your screen will indicate whether you passed or failed. This is the only notification you will receive. The Director of Calculus Placement will also receive a record of your result.

May I retake the exam if I do not pass?

No. The results of the placement exam are final.

What class will I be placed in if I do not pass the exam or do not take the exam?

Pending course availability, you will be placed in Pre-Calculus.

Who should I contact regarding questions about the Calculus I Placement Exam?

Contact Dr. Nickolas Hein, Director of Calculus Placement, at nhein@benedictine.edu or contact your Admission Counselor.