

ELM and MPT – the path to Math 150A

The **Entry Level Math (ELM)** exam is required by all students entering the CSU. The exam is usually taken in the spring or early summer the year the student is accepted to a CSU campus. It is **not** a requirement for acceptance to the CSU. Students who score 550 or above on the math section of the SAT, 23 or higher on ACT, or 3 or higher on AP calculus are exempt from the ELM requirement. The Early Assessment Program (EAP) is another way to be exempt from the ELM requirement: A score of “exempt” on the EAP test which is taken in 11th grade or a score of “conditionally exempt” on the test plus completion of senior year mathematics experience in 12th grade. Students who do not pass the ELM or are not exempt from the test need to take remedial mathematics course(s) their first year in college. At CSUN they take one or two courses, Math 092 and 093, depending on their ELM scores.

The **Mathematics Placement Test (MPT)** is a diagnostic test developed by the Mathematics Diagnostic Testing Project (MDTP) a joint venture between the UC and CSU. We use the MPT as a placement test for several of our courses; Math 103, Math 104, Math 105, Math 150A and Math 255A. We offer two parts of the MPT; Math Analysis Readiness test (part I) – a 45 minutes long test consisting of 45 multiple choice questions on intermediate algebra and Calculus Readiness test (part II) – a 60 minutes long test consisting of 40 multiple choice questions on trigonometry and advanced topics from intermediate algebra.

Paths to Math 150A – Calculus I: A passing score or exemption from the ELM exam is required.

1. Take the MPT parts I and II with a minimum score of 27 on part I and a minimum score of 24 on part II.
2. Take Math 105 (requires a minimum score of 27 on MPT part I) and pass with a grade of “C” or better.
3. Take Math 102 and Math 104, both with a grade of “C” or better.
4. Students who transfer the equivalent of Math 105 or Math 102 + Math 104 are required to take the MPT.

Some students may take the MPT after completing Math 102 to bypass the Math 104 requirement and go directly into Math 150A. This is recommended for students who did well in Math 102 and have had trigonometry in high school.

Information about MPT test dates can be found on the Testing Center website <http://www.csun.edu/testing> Sample questions can also be found on this site.

A student may test only once in a 6-month period.