

Using Your Math Placement Recommendations

The placement exam report will include course level recommendations. At the end of the report you will also find the raw scores for each part of the exam you completed.

You will see one of the following recommendations based on the results of the placement exam and relevant AP exams:

1. Math Ma or Math Ma5 (determined by the results of Part I of the exam)
2. Math 1a (determined by the results of Part I and Part II)
3. Math 1b (determined by the results of all three parts of the exam)
4. A list of all courses beyond single variable calculus (determined by the results of all three parts of the exam)

In addition to the Math Placement Exam, if you are planning to take a math class at Harvard you will take a Math Placement Verification Exam on September 2nd. The results of this exam will give you more information to choose an appropriate starting point for your mathematics coursework and in some case limit your options so that you do not select an overly ambitious option. More information will be posted [here](#) and on course websites in August.

If this seems confusing: There will be a Zoom meeting on August 4 at 12pm (ET) titled 'Making sense of your placement score'. Here is the [Zoom link](#). Meanwhile, three common questions about first year math courses and how to find answers follow below:

1. Is there a math requirement at Harvard?

While there is not a general math requirement at Harvard, many concentrations have a math requirement. In addition, there is a Quantitative Reasoning with Data requirement that can be met by taking a number of different courses. There is more information available [here](#).

2. How do I determine the math courses that are required for a concentration I'm interested in?

- a) Visit the Advising Programs Office website and take a look at the [Exploring Concentrations area](#). The gateway courses listed in each concentration will be helpful to consult. (A focus of study at Harvard is called a 'concentration'.)
- b) This [chart](#) is useful to see a summary of the requirements of various concentrations.
- c) For more information on the requirements of each concentration see the [Fields of Concentrations](#).
- d) Note that you can concentrate in any subject starting in our introductory math class Math Ma/Ma5 in the fall of your first year, but if you delay starting math possibilities vanish.

3. The placement report recommends that I can choose from either multivariable calculus courses or theory-based courses. How do I find out what these are and which to take?

Where to find an answer:

- a) Visit the [Math Department website](#) for an overview of courses and guidance about what to consider when making a choice
- b) Consult the [list of introductory courses](#)
- c) Attend the Math Department event "Shall I take Math 19, 21, 22, 25, 50 or AM22?" on August 6 at 4pm (EST). Here is a [Zoom link](#).