

ECC Developmental Mathematics Courses

MTH
090

- **Pre-Algebra** (3 credit hours): You will begin your developmental math sequence in MTH 090 if your Pre-Algebra placement score was 21-43.

MTH
096

- **Basic Algebra** (4 credit hours): You will begin your developmental math sequence in MTH 096 if your Pre-Algebra placement score was 44-100 OR if your Algebra placement score was 0-32. If your Algebra placement score was 33-37, you may take either MTH 096 or MTH 099 (see information at the right).

MTH
098

- **Intermediate Algebra** (4 credit hours): You may enroll in MTH 098 if your Algebra placement score is 38-54.

MTH
099

- **Combined Basic and Intermediate Algebra** (6 credit hours): You may enroll in MTH 099 if your Algebra placement score is 33-54. This course is a one-semester option that covers both MTH 096 AND MTH 098 material. [*NOTES: If your score is 33-37, you may take either MTH 099 or both MTH 096 and MTH 098 (in two different semesters); If your score is 38-54, you may take either MTH 099 or MTH 098.]

MTH 097:

Geometry (3 credit hours): You will need to enroll in MTH 097 only if you did not get a C or better in 2 semesters of high school Geometry OR you did NOT get a 46-100 on your Geometry placement test. (*Geometry may be taken after successfully completing MTH 096 or MTH 099 and is allowed to be taken concurrently with MTH 098.*)

Once you have completed MTH 098 or MTH 099 and met the geometry requirement, you will be eligible to enroll in transfer level courses.

Developmental Math Placement at ECC

Your developmental math course level is generally determined by the COMPASS placement test. These courses prepare you for the skills you will need to succeed in college level math courses.

Frequently Asked Questions about the COMPASS exam:

Do I need to take the placement test if I took the ACT? If you scored 23 or higher on the math portion of the ACT within the past two years, you do not need to take the ECC placement test.

How much does the placement test cost? No charge, it is free!

I am undecided about attending ECC, should I take the placement test? Yes, come to test anyway. Then you will be ready for orientation and registration if you do decide to register for college at ECC!

How much time will the test take? The test is not timed, but plan for 90 minutes. Don't rush, read the questions carefully. You will receive immediate results to use during Orientation or Registration.

What is tested by the COMPASS test? The test is administered via computer software that branches into different areas of mathematics. The test is multiple choice – it starts with questions from the Basic Algebra level. If you answer these correctly, you will see questions from the next level. However, if you answer incorrectly, you will drop down into the PreAlgebra (MTH 090) level or your test will end.

So those first questions are pretty important? Yes, those first questions are extremely important. Answer them very carefully or your test may be over before you get a chance to show what you know.

Can I retake the placement test? Yes, one retake is permitted.

How can I prepare for the COMPASS Test? Detailed information is available online at www.elgin.edu/testing. Click on the "Get details" link under the "Placement Testing" headline.

- **Review Online:** Use MyMathTest for free online. For details, visit tinyurl.com/MMTdirections.
- **Test Samples:** www.act.org/compass/sample and www.compassstestquestions.com. More websites are available at www.elgin.edu/testing.
- **Review Workshops:** One session quick review of math skills and test strategies. The cost is \$10.
- **Summer Bridge program:** Some students may qualify for an intensive three-week program in preparation for retaking the placement exam. Visit www.elgin.edu/summerbridge for details.

Can I use a calculator? Yes, you can bring a scientific calculator or borrow one from the Testing Desk.

How long is my placement score valid before I will need to retest? COMPASS placement scores are valid for two years. If you have not registered for a math course at ECC within two years, you will need to retake the placement exam.

Can I retake the placement exam after I start a math class in order to skip the next class? No. Once you have begun your math sequence at ECC, you must continue with the next course in the sequence.