

IMPORTANT MATH PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR ENTERING STUDENTS FALL 2011

We want you to have this important information that can make your life easier when it comes to your math classes at Western Illinois University. Read this carefully, share it with your family, and decide what is the best course of action for you. You can follow the guidelines in this mailing to determine your math placement, or go to the following website and follow the directions there:

<http://www.wiu.edu/math/> (click on placement on the right hand side)

Western requires all students to demonstrate competency in math in order to graduate with a bachelor's degree. **There are two ways to meet competency**: by placing into a math course higher than Math 100 (Core Competency in Mathematics), or by successfully completing Math 100. Some students are not prepared to take Math 100 when they enter the University. These students are placed in **Math 099N - Intermediate Algebra, a non-credit course** designed to give them skills to be successful in Math 100. **Since Math 099 is a non-credit course, it is important to understand other possibilities besides taking the course at Western.**

Your initial placement in a math course depends on a combination of your MATH ACT score and the math classes you took in high school. If you do not know what your MATH ACT is, check with your high school counselor.

You won't need to take Math 099N if your MATH ACT score is:

- 26 or above no matter what math you took, OR
- 23-25 and you pass (or passed) Algebra I, Geometry, and Advanced Algebra (with C or better in Advanced Algebra), OR
- 21-22 and you pass (or passed) Advanced Algebra (with C or better) your senior year, OR
- 0-20 and you pass (or passed) pre-calculus or above your senior year with at least a C.

If you fit into one of the four examples above, you can stop reading now and recycle this notice. If you do not fit into one of the examples, read on for more information.

You may want to get a head start in fulfilling WIU's math competency requirement by taking some action before you register for your fall classes at Western. Here are three ways to do that:

- 1) Complete the equivalent of WIU's Math 099N, Intermediate Algebra *with at least a C (or a pass if grading is pass/fail)*, at your local community college. Be sure to have a transcript reflecting this class sent to WIU when completed.
- 2) Consider taking the ACT produced COMPASS math placement test at an area community college to see if you can place higher than Math 099N. Call your community college to find out whether it offers COMPASS and if you can take the COMPASS test there. Only COMPASS scores will be accepted. Other placement tests are not valid for WIU placement.
- 3) Go to <http://www.wiu.edu/UniversityAdvising/compass/> and complete the practice tests for COMPASS prior to taking the COMPASS test either at your local college or here at WIU on a registration day. Many students have placed into higher math courses by practicing on this site before testing. This is a University of Idaho website so ignore the information about math courses – just use the practice tests.

You can, of course, take Math 099 at WIU during your first or second semester. You will be charged tuition and fees for 4 semester hours even though the class is non-credit. The options above are offered as alternatives to consider. If you place into Math 099N, the University strongly encourages you to complete this course prior to your sophomore year.

The Placement Grid that follows is a chart to further help you determine if your math placement will be Math 099N.

Where will you place in Math?

1. Find the letter below that best describes the sequence of your high school math courses. If your MATH ACT is 26 or above, **your math placement will be higher than Math 099**, and you can discard this notice.

- A - Algebra I and geometry or less
- B - Advanced algebra junior year or earlier (C grade required)*; no senior math course
- C - Advanced algebra senior year (C grade required)*
- D - Through advanced algebra (C grade required)* with a math course other than pre-calculus senior year (probability/statistics, transition to college math, etc).
- E - Pre-calculus junior year or before with C grade or higher* (no senior math course)
- F - Pre-calculus senior year with C grade or higher.

***If you receive(d) D's in your last math class, you will most likely place into Math 099N.**

2. Find the column under that letter on the placement grid below:

Placement Grid:

MATH ACT	A	B	C	D	E	F
0-20	099	099	099	099	099	
21-22	099	099				
23-25	099					

3. Find your MATH ACT score in the column headed MATH ACT above.

4. See where the row with your Math ACT score and the column you noted in #2 intersect. **If the square is blank, you will place into a credit course and your advisor will explain your options when you attend a summer New Student Registration Program.** Again, you can ignore this mailing and recycle the paper.

5. If your placement is Math 099N, we recommend you follow our suggestions on the front of this notice.

If you choose to take the COMPASS test at an area community college, you will need to send or FAX the actual COMPASS *scores*--not the course placements--to:

Dr. Marko Kranjc
 Mathematics Department
 Western Illinois University
 One University Circle
M-Kranjc@wiu.edu
 Macomb, IL 61455

FAX Number (309) 298-1857; phone number (309) 298-2315

If you feel totally confused by all the information provided here, feel free to contact an advisor in the UAASC (309) 298-1846, or e-mail Dr. Kranjc