

Placement Exams for College Algebra and Precalculus

The placement exams for College Algebra and Precalculus provide students with an opportunity to be tested in the respective course material to determine if they qualify to register for the subsequent course. The College Algebra placement exam tests students in College Algebra material and upon passing the exam, students are eligible to register for Precalculus. Similarly, the Precalculus Algebra placement exam contains material on Precalculus and upon passing the exam, students are eligible to register for Calculus 1. Note that neither exam provides the student with any credit for either College Algebra or Precalculus.

Exam Organization

1. The placement exam is multiple choice.
2. Each placement exam has 4 parts where each part contains 15 questions for a total of 60 questions and each part is allocated 60 minutes.
3. A minimum of 42 / 60 questions (70%) must be answered correctly to receive a pass.

Exam Rules

1. Each placement exam has 4 parts where each part contains 15 questions for a total of 60 questions and each part is allocated 60 minutes. The 4 parts may be taken independently and on different exam days. Students can take the four parts of the exam on the same day with two parts in the morning and two parts in the afternoon. Alternatively, students may take two parts on one day and the remaining two parts on a subsequent day.
2. A minimum of two weeks is required between consecutive attempts to retake any parts of the placement exam.
3. In totality, only two tries are provided to take the full exam or any parts of the exam.
4. UTRGV students are required to present their UTRGV student ID upon exam time. High school students are required to show their high school ID. Any government issued photo ID such as a driver's license is also acceptable.
5. Cell phones are to be put away and cannot be used during the exam.
6. Calculator Usage. No cell phones are allowed to be used as calculators.
 - a. College Algebra exam: Any graphing calculator is allowed
 - b. Precalculus exam: Any graphing calculator is allowed except the TI-CX and except any Computer Algebra Systems (CAS) calculators.

Placement Exam Content

Each placement exam contains four parts and the table below contains the material content for each part.

College Algebra	Precalculus
Part 1: Rational functions	Part 1: Polynomial, Rational, Exponential, Log & Trig Functions
Part 2: Exponential/Logarithmic functions	Part 2: Analytic Trigonometry
Part 3: Matrices and solving linear systems	Part 3: Applications of Trigonometric Functions
Part 4: Sequences and probability	Part 4: Polar Coordinates, Vectors, Analytic Geometry