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## Answers:

- **Why do I have to take the placement exam?**  
Incoming students' mathematical backgrounds are incredibly varied. The purpose of our placement process is to help you find the appropriate course or courses where you are most likely to succeed. An adequate background in mathematics is essential to your success in future mathematics courses. All students must be placed into a math class and may not take courses they do not place into. In addition to determining which courses you are most likely to succeed in, the placement test helps ensure that all students are provided the high quality of education they need for their majors and future coursework.
- **What if I don't want to take a mathematics class?**  
The idea of a liberal arts education is very important at the University of Redlands. Students have the opportunity to take a wide range of classes and have a lot of wonderful new experiences. As part of the liberal arts education the university has a mathematics requirement for graduation and several courses satisfy this requirement.
- **I'm enrolling in Johnston. Do I need to take the exam?**  
Yes. Although Johnston students do not need to specifically meet the liberal arts foundation requirements, your contract will need to demonstrate academic breadth, and you may want or need a mathematics class as part of that contract. We hope you are pleasantly surprised at the number of unique math classes available at U of R, and want to make sure that you have the option to enroll in these classes.

- **What if I took AP Calculus (or a year of Calculus in High School)?**  
 You may not need to take the placement exam. You will be interviewed by Math Faculty when you arrive on campus prior to your advising appointment. If you received login information for the placement exam, then according to our records you should take the placement exam.
- **What if I took AP Statistics?**  
 If you did not take Calculus, you will need to take the placement exam.
- **Why can't I just take whatever math class I want? I'm only hurting myself, right?**  
 Unprepared students often negatively affect the level of the entire class. At the University of Redlands, we often work together as a class, or in small groups, on problems and projects. A student who is unprepared and struggling will not be able to participate fully and will hurt the progress of his/her classmates. We want to make sure that every student has the best experience possible in their math classes!
- **Which test should I take?**  
 Everybody should take the algebra exam. If you are interested in taking calculus or think you might ever need it for your major, then you should also take the calculus readiness exam. If you are not sure, it doesn't hurt to try both.
- **Which majors or programs require calculus?**  
 Bachelor of Science in Accounting  
 Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
 Bachelor of Science in Biology  
 Bachelor of Science in Chemistry  
 Bachelor of Science in Economics  
 Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science  
 Bachelor of Science in Mathematics  
 Bachelor of Science in Physics  
 PreMed/PreHealth Integrated Programs of Study  
 PreLaw Integrated Program of Study
- **When do I get my scores?**  
 Your scores are sent to your advisor, who will help you select your classes. Your suggested placement is emailed to your University of Redlands account once the testing period has ended.
- **How are my scores used?**  
 Placement scores are ONLY used to help you select a math class in which you will succeed. They don't affect your grades and never appear on transcripts (although they may become part of Datatel or WebAdvisor), so just do your best.
- **I don't like where I placed, can I retake the exam?**  
 Yes! If you would like to retake the exam to try to place into a different math class, you will have a chance to do so once you arrive on campus.
- **Why should I take a practice exam?**  
 Not only will the practice exams help to get you used to the exam format, but they will also help you to remember math concepts that you might not have used in a while. Many students do

significantly better after just practicing a few problems. After taking the practice exam, you will be able to see which problems you correctly answered and which problems need work.

- **Why can't I use my graphing calculator?**

To receive the greatest benefit from the math placement process, you are expected to complete the exam without the use of outside resources, including calculators. We want to know which math class you would be most comfortable in, not where your calculator places. The placement exam is set up so that you should not need a calculator. Also, in many of our math classes, calculators are not used during exams.

- **How do I access the placement exam?**

Go to <http://place18.placementtester.com:8080/redlands> and enter your username and password in the spaces provided. Your user id will be the user id from your campus email account (the part that appears before the @redlands.edu). Your placement user id and password are included in the placement email, sent to your University of Redlands email address.

- **How do I take the exam?**

First log into the testing website.

Select the exam that you want to take by choosing from the available links.

A window will pop up telling you that it is a timed exam. Press **OK** to start the exam.

Your first question will appear.

Select your answer from the list of five possible answers by clicking on the bubble.

Press **Next** from the links at the top of the screen.

Your next question will appear.

Once you have completed the exam and are satisfied with your answers press the **Grade** link from the links at the top of the screen. Your exam will be graded and scores sent to your advisor.

If there are any unanswered questions a screen with links to the unanswered questions will appear, so you can return and submit an answer.

- **Can I skip questions or return to a question later?**

YES, you can always return to a question by clicking on the Questions Menu link at the top of the screen. You will see a drop down menu, from which you can access any question on the exam. You can also return to the previous question by pressing the **Back** link or skip a question by pressing the **Next** link.

- **How do I know how much time I have left?**

The exam timer is on the right side of the screen. It counts down letting you know how much time you have left. Printed above the timer are the question number and how many total questions are on the exam. You will be warned by a pop up window when you have five minutes remaining on the exam.

- **What if I am interrupted or need to stop the exam?**

You can pause the exam by pressing the Quit & Save link on the top right corner of the screen. This will save your exam and pause the timer. When you want to return to the exam, click on the original exam link, just like you did when you first started the exam. Your exam will restart at Question 1, but your answers will be saved and the timer will restart where you left off.

- **What if my computer crashes or my browser freezes?**

It's okay! Your answers will be saved and the timer will be paused. Just access the exam again using the original exam link, like you did when you started the exam.

- **What if I still have questions about math placement?**

You can email your questions to [math\\_placement@redlands.edu](mailto:math_placement@redlands.edu) and we will respond as quickly as possible.