

Math GE Fulfillment FAQ

Below are frequently asked questions regarding the Math Ge Fulfillment Exam

If you have any questions that are not answered below, please reach out to Professor Chris Towse

What is the Fulfillment Exam?

“*The Fulfillment Exam*” is a misnomer; it is actually a choice of 4 different exams. Each testing a different level of proficiency in single-variable calculus (beginning with trigonometry and precalculus).

For example- the “30/31 Exam” tests on material from Math 30 (Calculus 1) to see if you are prepared for Math 31 (Calculus 2).

Should I take the Fulfillment Exam?

There are several reasons why you might take the Fulfillment Exam.

1. If you have had a calculus class in high school but did not receive a 4 or a 5 on an AP exam, you can take the Fulfillment Exam and potentially complete your Math GE requirement with a passing score. This is a good option for students who took IB classes or others who did not have the AP option.
2. If you are unsure where to self-place yourself into a mathematics course, the Fulfillment Exam can aid with placement advice. We will give a recommendation for your next calculus based on your Fulfillment exam scores. (Note: it is possible to score high enough for us to recommend Math 30 while not scoring high enough to fulfill the Math GE. Satisfying the Math GE by this exam is set at a higher bar.) You can also discuss placement with us during the Open House. Remember, you can self-place into any Math course, you do not need the Fulfillment Exam for placement.
3. Depending on your eventual choice of major or minor (particularly in STEM fields), you may have a calculus requirement for that program. Your major/minor advisor might take your Fulfillment Exam score into consideration and waive their calculus requirement(s). (This is a matter for the major/minor department, so you would need to speak with an appropriate advisor.)

Should I prepare for the exam? How?

You should feel free to review material from your last math class, especially if it finished earlier than last spring. Calculators are not allowed at the Fulfillment Exam, so be sure you can work without one. You should not attempt to test out of a class that you have not taken. At the same time, you should not try to take a lower-level exam hoping to do better. You will do your best on the material which you have had most recently. We understand that it may have been some months since you thought about your last math class, and the exams are scored with this in mind.

Can I take it again if I have a bad day?

You may take The Fulfillment Exam only once. The Fulfillment Exam is offered to you as a Math GE option during Orientation in the semester that you enter Scripps. If you start one version of the exam and change your mind, you will have time to switch to a different one.

But what if I disagree with your placement recommendation?

Remember, the Fulfillment exam is only assisting you with a *recommendation* for placement. If, for example, you have had a Calculus class and you think you are ready for Calculus 2, then we would encourage you to try Calc 2 (Math 31). (Check the self-assessment information [here](#).) Also, you can speak to any faculty member of the Math Department, and we will help you with more personalized advice, for instance at the Open House.

“What if you place me in a class higher than I want?” “I’ve been told that college calculus is different from high school and that I should always start with Calculus 1.”

Honestly, we would rather you move on and learn new math while in college. We have found students who take a course they have already mastered often have trouble engaging and don’t perform as well. If you have already taken a calculus class in high school, we do not want you to take our precalculus class (Math 23 – Transcendental Functions). Some review is nice, but not a full semester (or more!) of review. Try the higher-level course. If it is genuinely too challenging, it will not be difficult to drop down once the semester starts before the add/drop deadlines (It is generally more difficult to move up.). Remember, the key to college is to learn new things and broaden your horizons!