

## The Department of Mathematics, Columbia University

### Calculus Placement Guide

The Mathematics Department at Columbia University does not offer a placement exam for calculus. Instead, initial placement and credit recommendations are based on the calculus courses students have completed in high school or at other colleges or universities.

Students are encouraged to consult their school advisor or the Director of Undergraduate Studies in their intended major or minor to understand how calculus and other mathematics courses relate to their program requirements. For questions about calculus placement or credit transfer, or to request approval, they may contact the Calculus Director in the Mathematics Department. Representatives from the department will also be available to answer questions at the Academic Resources Fair.

Additional guidance, including detailed placement information and course descriptions, is available on the department website:

<https://www.math.columbia.edu/programs-math/undergraduate-program/calculus-classes/>. A brief summary is provided below.

#### Calculus Placement Summary

If you have little or no background in calculus but have strong pre-calculus skills, we recommend starting with *Calculus I* ([MATH UN1101](#)). You may also consider *College Algebra and Analytic Geometry* ([MATH UN1003](#)), which reviews pre-calculus topics and introduces central ideas from calculus. This course can help prepare you for Calculus I.

If you have a solid foundation on differential calculus, for example by earning a 5 on the AP Calculus AB exam or a 4 on the AP Calculus BC exam, you may begin with either *Calculus II* ([MATH UN1102](#)) or *Calculus III* ([MATH UN1201](#)), depending on your background and academic plans. Calculus II is not required before taking Calculus III, but both are needed before continuing to *Calculus IV* ([MATH UN1202](#)).

If you have a strong background in differential and integral calculus as well as infinite series, at a level equivalent to a score of 5 on the AP Calculus BC exam, you may advance directly to *Calculus III* ([MATH UN1201](#)) and *Calculus IV* ([MATH UN1202](#)). Students with a strong interest in mathematics or physics might also consider *Accelerated Multivariable Calculus* ([MATH UN1205](#)).

If you have a strong background in Calculus and a serious interest in mathematics or theoretical subjects, you may consider the *Honors Mathematics A/B sequence* ([MATH UN1207/UN1208](#)). (Honors Math A must be completed before Honors Math B.)

For questions about calculus placement or credit, please contact the Calculus Director, George Dragomir, at [gd2572@columbia.edu](mailto:gd2572@columbia.edu).