

WHAT QC MATH COURSE SHOULD I TAKE???

1. If you are interested in the physical or natural sciences (*Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Computer Science, Mathematics, Pre-med/Pre-dent, Physical Therapy, etc*), then you need at least one semester of Calculus, either Math 141 or Math 151. Math 151, followed by Math 152, is similar to the standard first-year Calculus sequence at most colleges and universities. Math 141, followed by 142 and 143, cover the same material, but proceed at a slightly slower pace. Either trajectory is fine! It is just important that you gauge your preparedness and learning pace in order to discern the best sequence for you.

To register for Math 141 or 151, you need an 80 or above on the NY State third-year Math Regents (formerly Math B), or a 600 or above on the Math SAT, or you need to place into Calculus by getting a sufficiently high score on the Compass Exam (the Mathematics department placement exam, which is different than the ACT entrance test you may have taken to gain admission into Queens). If you fail to satisfy all 3 of these criteria, then you will need to register for Math 122, pre-calculus, **even if you took pre-calculus in High School**, and earn a grade of C- or better in pre-calculus to move into calculus. If you are not ready for pre-calculus, then you will need to register for Math 115, which is College Algebra for Pre-calculus. All students who register for Math 122, will need to ensure proper placement. To do so, you must take the COMPASS exam. Alternatively, you can self-place into Math 115—build a solid foundation—and then work your way up to Math 122, then either Math 141 or 151.

2. If you are interested in Accounting, Business, or Economics, then your minimum requirement is Math 131*, Calculus for the Social Sciences. The pre-requisites for Math 131 are the same as those above for Math 141 or 151, with the added caveat that if you register for Math 115, Intro to College Algebra, and earn a grade of B- or better, then you will be eligible to “jump” into Math 131 bypassing Math 122 (pre-calculus). Please be advised, though, that the Economics department strongly recommends that their majors take Math 141, rather than Math 131, especially if they plan on attending graduate school! Think ahead and do not be short-sighted about your learning and future goals.
3. If you are interested in Elementary Education, then you need to take Math 119, Math for Elementary School Teachers.
4. If you are interested in English, History, Political science, Drama, etc., i.e. areas that don't utilize mathematics, then your minimum math requirement is Math 110 (Mathematical Literacy), though you do have other choices, which include Math 113 (Ideas in Mathematics), Math 114 (Elementary Probability and Statistics), Math 116 (Mathematics of Finance). Please note that these other choices are not offered as frequently as Math 110.

*** Important:** Only take Math 131 if you are **absolutely sure** that you will major in Accounting or Business. If you were to switch; i.e. become interested in Actuarial Science or another area that requires more than one semester of Calculus, then you will have to either take Math 141 or 151 (essentially setting you back one semester) or learn material on your own so that you can then go on to Math 142. The really smart move is to take the Math placement exam to see where you really belong—the Math COMPASS Exam. And if you're good in math, and place into Calculus, then do the smart thing and register for Math 141 or 151!

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From Martin Braun, Professor of Mathematics and Director of the Freshman Year Initiative

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