

For Students Considering Math, Computer Science or Physical Sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Geological Sciences) or Engineering:

- **What is your Precalculus background, if any?**

“Precalculus” material includes high school Algebra I and II, trigonometry and exponential and logarithmic functions.

If you have no previous precalculus and/or calculus experience, or negative prior experiences taking either precalculus or calculus, we strongly recommend MATH1000 Precalculus: Functions, Models, and Change, followed by Math1102 (Calculus I Math, CS, & Physical Sciences Majors). (Following this, you will be prepared to take MATH1103 Calculus II (Math, CS, & Physical Sciences Majors), if you wish.)

Note: Math1000 does not satisfy Math Core, and Math1100 and higher does satisfy the Math Core. See [more about Math1000 below](#).

- **What is your Calculus background, if any?**

If you had no Calculus or only a semester of Calculus in high school, but have a strong background in precalculus material, you should take the [Calculus Placement Test](#). Based on that, you will be recommended to start in MATH1102 Calculus I (Math, CS, & Physical Sciences Majors) or MATH1000 Precalculus: Functions, Models, and Change, then Math1102. Following Math1102, you will be prepared to take MATH1103 Calculus II (Math, CS, & Physical Sciences Majors). *Note: Math1000 does not satisfy Math Core, and Math1100 and higher does satisfy the Math Core.*

If you had at least a year of Calculus in high school, then the options are MATH1102 Calculus I (Math, CS, & Physical Sciences Majors), MATH1103 Calculus II (Math, CS, & Physical Sciences Majors), or MATH2202 Multivariable Calculus, depending on the following factors:

- the type of high school Calculus curriculum you studied ("AB," "BC," or "Other");
- the results you achieved in these courses;
- the results you achieved on the AP exam, if you took one;
- your attitude towards and experience with mathematics;
- your motivation to pursue a demanding program, and the level of other courses you are taking.

Our general recommendations on which course you should choose as a first Calculus course can be found in the following table. In all cases where we suggest choosing one of two possible courses, you should almost always take the higher-numbered course if you have a positive attitude towards mathematics and are motivated to pursue a demanding program.

		Calculus Curriculum You Studied/ AP Test You Took		
		BC	AB	Other
The Result You Achieved	AP Score of 5	MATH2202 or 2203**	MATH1103	---
	AP Score of 4	MATH1103 or MATH2202	MATH1102 or MATH1103	---
	AP scores of 3 or lower	Take Calculus Placement Test*	Take Calculus Placement Test*	—
	A year of high school Calculus	Take Calculus Placement Test*	Take Calculus Placement Test*	Take Calculus Placement Test*

*Based on your CPT score, you will be recommended to start in MATH1102 or MATH1000 depending on your precalculus background.

**Students in this category may also want to consider MATH2203, Honors Multivariable.

For Students Considering Life and Social Sciences (Biology, Biochemistry, Psychology, Neuroscience, Economics), or Other Majors

- **What is your Precalculus background, if any?**

“Precalculus” material includes high school Algebra I and II, trigonometry and exponential and logarithmic functions. **If you have no previous precalculus and/or calculus experience, or negative prior experiences taking either precalculus or calculus**, we strongly recommend MATH1000 Precalculus: Functions, Models, and Change, then Math1100 (Calculus I (Life & Social Science Majors)). (Following this, you will be prepared to take MATH1101 Calculus II (Life and Social Science Majors) or MATH1103 Calculus II (Math, CS, & Physical Sciences Majors), if you wish.) *Note: Math1000 does not satisfy Math Core, and Math1100 and higher does satisfy the Math Core. See [more about Math1000 below](#).*

- **What is your Calculus background, if any?**

If you had no Calculus or only a semester of Calculus in high school, but have a strong background in precalculus material, you should take the [Calculus Placement Test](#). Based on that, you will be recommended to start in MATH1100 Calculus I (Life and Social Majors) or MATH1000 Precalculus: Functions, Models, and Change, followed by Math1100. Following Math1100, you will be prepared to take MATH1101 Calculus II (Life

and Social Science Majors). *Note: Math1000 does not satisfy Math Core, and Math1100 and higher does satisfy the Math Core.*

If you had at least a year of Calculus in high school, then the options are MATH1100 Calculus I (Life & Social Science Majors), MT1101 Calculus II (Life & Social Science Majors), or MATH2202, Multivariable Calculus, in some cases, depending on the following factors:

- the type of high school Calculus curriculum you studied ("AB," "BC," or "Other");
- the results you achieved in these courses;
- the results you achieved on the AP exam, if you took one;
- your attitude towards and experience with mathematics;
- your motivation to pursue a demanding program, and the level of other courses you are taking.

Our general recommendations on which course you should choose as a first Calculus course can be found in the following table. In all cases where we suggest choosing one of two possible courses, you should almost always take the higher-numbered course if you have a positive attitude towards mathematics and are motivated to pursue a demanding program.

		Calculus Curriculum You Studied/ AP Test You Took		
		BC	AB	Other
The Result You Achieved	AP Score of 5	MT1101 or MT2202	MT1101	---
	AP Score of 4	MT1101	MT1100 or MT1101	---
	AP scores of 3 or lower	Take Calculus Placement Test*	Take Calculus Placement Test*	—
	A year of high school Calculus	Take Calculus Placement Test*	Take Calculus Placement Test*	Take Calculus Placement Test*

*Based on your CPT score, you will be recommended to start in MT1100 or MT1000 depending on your precalculus background.

See here for information on how to take the [Calculus Placement Test 26-27](#).

See [here for how to interpret your scores](#).

MATH 1000 Precalculus: Functions, Models, and Change

This course is intended for students who are required to take Calculus I (either MATH1100 or MATH1102) but whose backgrounds necessitate additional preparation. This course develops functions and function notation with an emphasis on modeling and interpreting models. The functions explored will include linear, polynomial, and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometry and trigonometric functions. This course prepares students to take MATH 1100 or MATH 1102 in the future. It is an excellent choice for students who've had little to no previous precalculus and/or calculus experience.

Note: This course does not satisfy the University Core Requirement in Mathematics. Department permission is required: see the Assistant Chair for Undergraduates, beldingj@bc.edu.

Note: If you see reference to Math1002--3 (Functions and Differential Calculus), please note that this will NOT be offered in 2026-27. Students needing to take Calculus 1 who also need the foundational material of Precalculus and Functions can take the Math1000 in the fall and then take Math1100 in the Spring.