PRIORY: Math Department Policy on Placement and Acceleration

Mathematics Department Mission

The Mathematics Department's mission is to produce students who are flexible and critical thinkers, able to independently problem solve and effectively communicate both reasoning and results. We strive to create a consistent learning experience for all students, and we offer a wide array of courses and appropriately place students based on ability. While striving for transparency and consistency, we recognize that there can be exceptional circumstances. Students are always welcome to talk to the MS or US Math Department Chair about their individual circumstances.

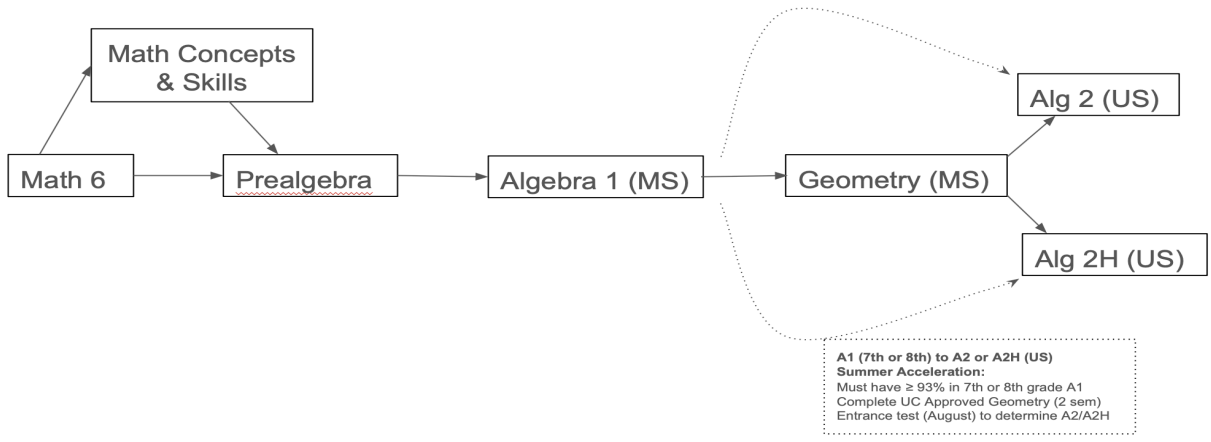
Middle School Mathematics Course Placement

All incoming 6th grade students start the year in a month-long Roots math course, where we bring diverse math backgrounds together and establish common expectations for our MS math courses. Students will review and learn foundational math concepts, problem-solving skills and habits of scholarship. At the end of the month, students will be placed into *Math 6* or *Prealgebra* based on a holistic evaluation process. For transfer students going into 7th or 8th grade, math placements will be determined based on their previous coursework. We are mindful that the initial placement is an entry point into a seven-year math trajectory through high school. This seven-year math trajectory allows for flexibility at key moments to provide the appropriate levels of productive struggle and challenge.

For students who start middle school in *Math 6*, they will be placed into either *Math Concepts and Skills* or *Prealgebra* in 7th grade. Students who earn an A or A- in both semesters of *Math 6* will be placed into Prealgebra. Students who earn a B+ in *Math 6* will be required to complete summer work before enrolling in Prealgebra. All other students will be placed into *Math Concepts and Skills* for 7th grade.

If a student on an accelerated path (6th graders in Prealgebra or higher, 7th graders in Algebra I or higher, 8th graders in Geometry or higher) falls below a B (83%) in their grade, the teacher and MS Math Department Chair will hold a parent meeting to reassess the trajectory. Priory's Math Department takes the responsibility of appropriate course placement seriously and will work with the student and family to consider flexible paths to continuing their math progression.

Middle School Math Progression Chart



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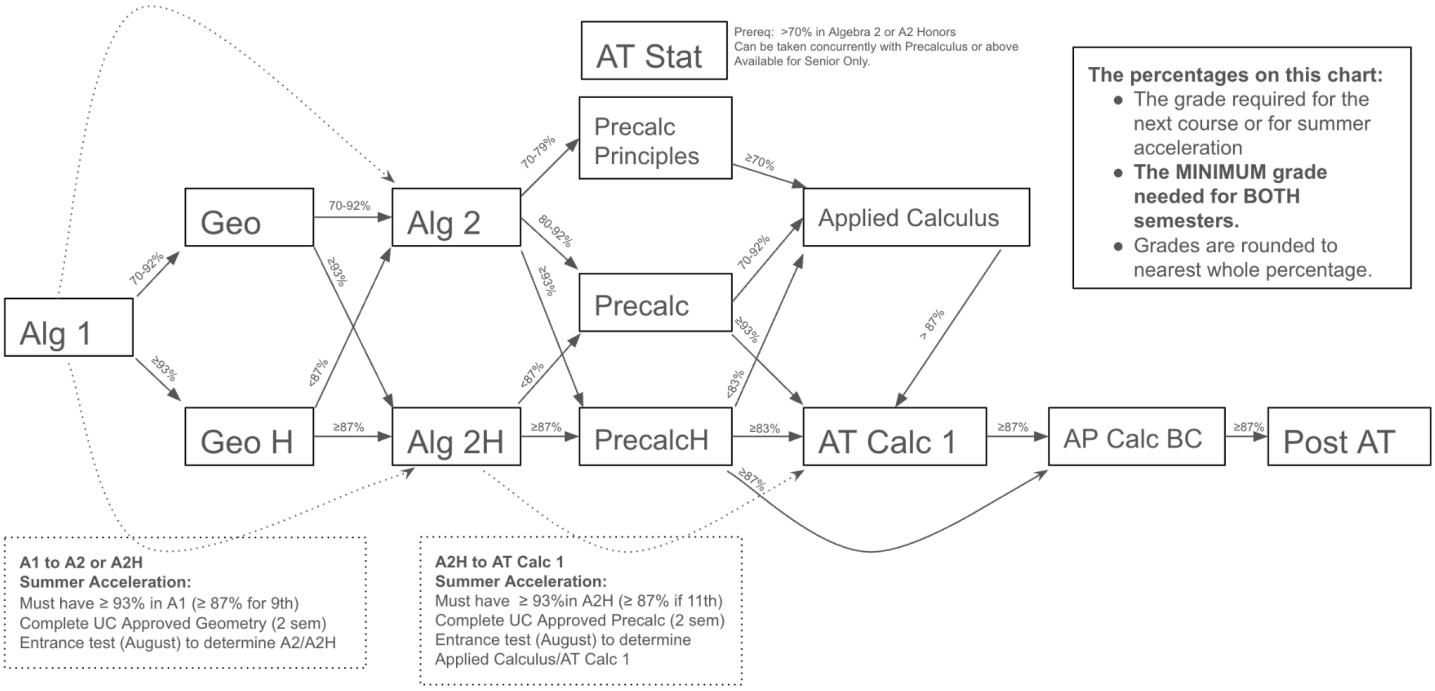
Upper School Mathematics Course Placement

All students are required to take 3 years of math at Priory, including *Algebra 1*, *Geometry*, and *Algebra 2* as a minimum. College Counseling recommends 4 years of math. All incoming upper school students will take a math placement test, with the exception of 9th graders going into Algebra 1. Performance on this test will be used to place a student into the appropriate math course and level (regular or honors). Honors classes are designed for students who are able to think conceptually about math, can see the structure behind the details and are comfortable applying ideas in new settings.

Two-Year Phase-in of AT Calculus Courses: 2026-28

We are transitioning from AP Calculus to AT Calculus courses over a two-year period. In 2026-27 (Phase I), we will replace AP Calculus AB with AT Calculus I. In 2027-28 (Phase II), we will replace AP Calculus BC with AT Calculus 2.

Upper School Math Progression Chart (Phase I: 2026-27)



In summary, elective classes at the *Precalculus* level or beyond require the following grades for admittance.

Precalculus Principles	Require C- in Algebra II
Precalculus	Require B- in Algebra II
Precalculus Honors	Require B+ in Algebra II Honors or A in Algebra II
Applied Calculus	Require C- in Precalculus Principles, Precalculus or Precalculus Honors
Advanced Topics: Calculus I	Require A- in Precalculus (or B+ with summer work), or B+ in Precalculus Honors (or B with summer work), or B+ in Applied Calculus (or B with summer work)
AP Calculus BC	Require B+ in Precalculus Honors or B in AP Calculus AB
Advanced Topics: Linear Algebra, Multivariable Calculus, Discrete Math, Differential Equations (alternate)	Require B+ in AT Calculus II or B+ in current post-AP math course
Advanced Topics: Statistics	Require C in Algebra II

Course acceleration

Students' interests and abilities can change over time. This may cause students to find themselves on a path that no longer fits their current situation. After completion of *Algebra 1*, acceleration can be done through summer work in a UC-approved program at select times if grade requirements are met. As *Algebra 1* and *2* are fundamental to a strong foundation in math, **summer acceleration can only occur for *Geometry*, *Precalculus,* or *AT Calculus I (e.g. AP Calculus AB equivalent)*.** Students must consult the US Math Department Chair before the summer to get approval to start this process.

Summer Acceleration for *Geometry* and *Precalculus*:

Students who are trying to accelerate into *AT Calculus 1* Pacing (*AT Calculus 1* or *Applied Calculus* their Senior year) need to have an B+ (≥87%) for both semesters of their current math class. Students who are trying to accelerate *beyond AT Calculus 1* Pacing (*AT Calculus 2* or *Post-AT Math* their Senior year) need to have an A (≥93%) for both semesters of their current math class. Following this, students need to take a two semester, UC-approved class (*Geometry* or *Precalculus)* and get a grade of at least B for both semesters. The official transcript of the summer course must be submitted and completion of the mastery test must happen before the class drop deadline or students will not be allowed to accelerate. In August, students will take a Priory mastery test to determine placement into the appropriate level of the next course (e.g., *Algebra 2* or *Algebra 2 Honors*).