Sample Basic Skills Test Problems

Below are sample problems taken from a twenty-five problem Basic Skills Test given the first week of class. You are expected to pass the test with a 70% or better score. These represent some of the skills you need to have before taking the class.

Can you work the following?

Basic Algebra
Simplify:

$$3^2 - (5-3) \div (1 \cdot 2)$$

Intermediate Algebra
Completely factor the polynomial

$$2x^5 - 8x^4 - 42x^3$$

College Algebra
Simplify. Leave with all positive exponents. Assume all variables represent positive real numbers.

$$(3a^{2/3}b^{1/4})(5a^{1/3}b^{-1/2})$$

More examples are available on the math department website at http://www.baycollege.edu/?mathbst.

Answers: 8, $2x^3(x-7)(x+3)$ $\frac{15a}{b^{1/4}}$

Math Instructor Contact Information

	Office/Extension
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Britt Slade (Bay West)	Room 126
sladeb@baycollege.edu	Ext. 3017

Calculator Use Policy

No calculators:
MA090 MA100

Graphing calculators may be used but are not required (scientific calculator required):
MA105 MA107 MA130
MA210 MA244 MA250

Graphing calculator required:
MA110 MA111 MA115
MA141 MA142
MA225 MA243

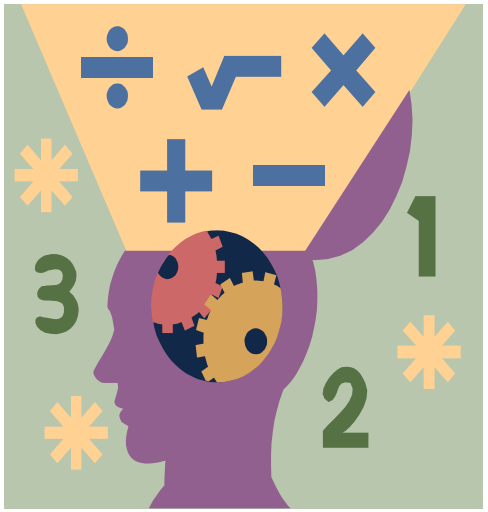
Bay College

http://www.baycollege.edu
1-906-786-5802 ■ 1-800-221-2001
1-906-774-8547 (Bay West)

Revised: 05/26/10

Take Math First

$3 + 2^3 + 2(3+1)^2$



Informational Brochure from the Bay College Math Department

Dear Bay College Student:

On behalf of the Mathematics & Science Department, welcome to the Bay College family. We would like to offer some advice to help you as you make your way through the sometimes overwhelming list of classes that are required to complete your degree or transfer program.

Many students focus only on the classes listed for their program and overlook any of the prerequisites leading up to those classes. These students often put off that one math class required for their degree until the semester they are planning to graduate. Suddenly, they are confronted with the realization that they have actually placed two classes below the required class, and it will take them three additional semesters to earn their degree.

Don't let this happen to you!
Take math first!

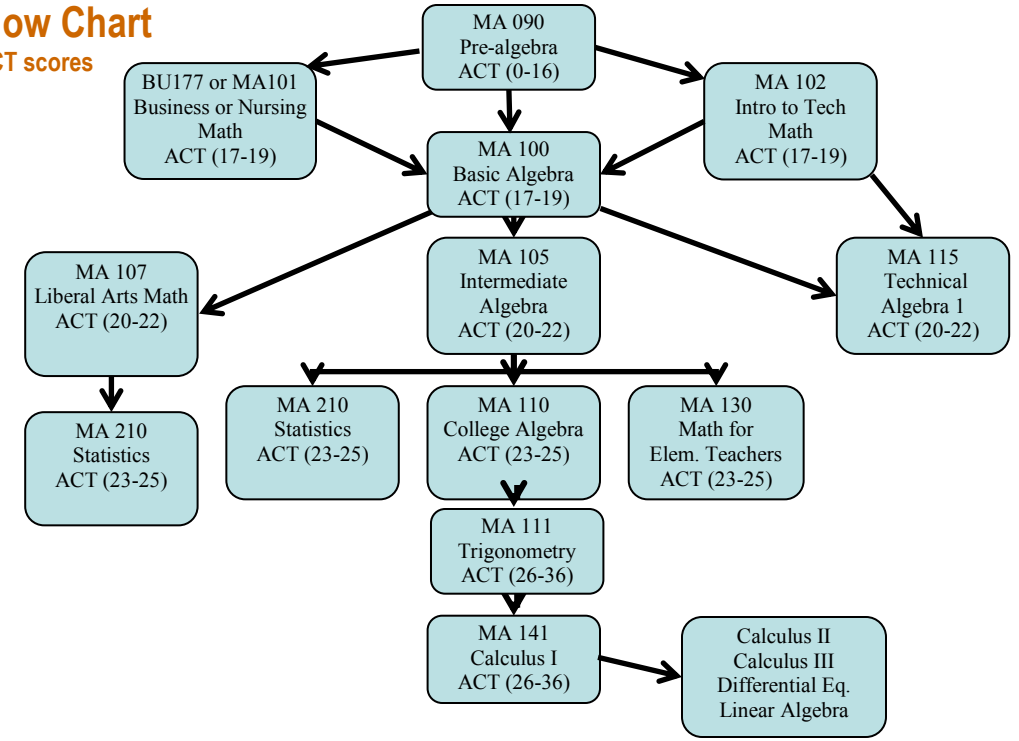
Start by taking the appropriate math class your first semester. Get your math requirements out of the way early so you don't become one of the unfortunate students that have to stay for extra semesters to earn their degree or end up leaving Bay without it.

See the math flow chart on the right. If you are not sure which math class you should take or if your ACT score is more than 3 years old, you should sign up to take the **COMPASS** assessment; a computer generated test that provides you with accurate information on your current math skills. Bay College provides this test **free** as a service to students. Contact Student Computing (ex. 1180 main campus or ex. 3020 West) to set up an appointment. To prepare for the test, see sample test questions, and for additional information you can visit the websites listed in this brochure, the math dept. website at http://www.baycollege.edu/?mathbst or the COMPASS website at http://www.act.org/compass/sample/index.html.

We want every student to succeed and are here to help you. If you have any questions, please contact us. We look forward to seeing you in class.

The Bay College Math Department

Math Flow Chart
with ACT scores



Improve your skills...

ModuMath: A Math Resource for Current & Incoming Students

Available in the Math-Science Center and the Trio Center on the Escanaba Campus and in the Student Testing Center at Bay College West.

Websites with Online Math Tutorials

Hippocampus	www.hippocampus.org
Purple Math-Your Algebra Resource	www.purplemath.com
Math.com-The World of Math Online	www.math.com
West Texas A & M University	www.wtamu.edu/academic/anns/mps/math/mathlab/
Algebra Help	www.algebrahelp.com/
Analyze Math	www.analyzemath.com/
Companion to Texts	www.interactmath.com/