Mathematics Placement Test (MPE)

Purpose: The mission of Emmanuel College is to prepare students to become Christ-like disciples who integrate faith, learning, and living for effective careers, scholarship, and service. Desiring to be good stewards in preparing students we want each student placed in a mathematics course that provides them both an opportunity to grow and an opportunity to succeed in achieving their goals.

Background: Our experience indicates that there is great diversity in students’ mathematical preparation. While courses, grades, and SAT scores provide some information, they were not designed for college math course placement and they are not good predictors of the level of math for which a student is prepared. At Emmanuel we use the Mathematics Placement Exam (MPE) to determine a student’s preparedness for 6 levels of mathematics, ranging from developmental mathematics to precalculus.

Process: The MPE is given to each entering student (except those transfers who have already completed all math requirements for their major) prior to meeting with an advisor for registration. The results of the MPE are entered into the registration system to guide the advisor and student in the selection of an appropriate mathematics class.

- The MPE has 46 multiple choice questions and students have 1 hour to complete the exam.
- Scratch paper and pencils will be provided.
- Calculators and cell phones are not permitted. You will be asked to turn cell phones off and put them away.
- Be aware that wrong answers do count against your final score. Therefore, you should not guess unless you can confidently eliminate a couple of the answers. It’s best that you leave answers blank if you do not know.
- Do not be surprised if you see topics on the exam that are new to you; the exam covers a broad range of topics because we use it to place students in 6 levels. (A list of sample topics is given below).
- Do your best. The MPE is a one-time event in preparation for registration. Unfortunately, there are no ‘do-overs’. However, if you believe the test has placed you in the wrong class, there is an appeal process that will give you the opportunity to present evidence and answer additional math questions to demonstrate that you are ready for another class.
- It is very important to be well-rested, prepared, and on time for this exam. The math class that you are placed in now could affect your scheduling and graduation requirements later.
Note: You may want to brush up on your math. This is especially true if you did not take college prep math your senior year or if you have been out of school for some time before enrolling in college. (There is a sample list of MPE topics below.)

Topics Covered: The following list is a sample of the topics addressed on the MPE.

1. Arithmetic – fractions, decimal numbers, and percentages
2. Solution of linear equations
3. Evaluation and simplification of algebraic expressions
4. Distance
5. Geometry and equations of lines
6. Absolute value
7. Factoring
8. Simplification of rational expressions
9. Radicals and exponents
10. Inequalities
11. Quadratic equations
12. Functions
13. Graphs
14. Interpreting data from tables
15. Word problems
16. Exponential and logarithm functions
17. Radian measure and values of trig functions
18. Right Triangles
19. Basic trig identities