

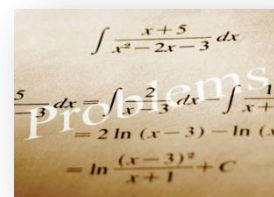
Placement Testing

for students starting in fall 2015

UMW offers placement testing for students in key areas of the curriculum where we have noticed students struggling in the past if they do not start at the appropriate level. Here we provide some basic information about these tests. **Calculus and Language placement tests will be completed online prior to your summer orientation program. The Chemistry placement test will be completed at Orientation.** Please do not concern yourself with “studying” for these exams. They are simply used to place you in the appropriate course.

Calculus Readiness

Are you planning to take Calculus while you are at UMW? If you are planning to major in Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics or Computer Science, then *Math 121: Calculus I* is either a required course or a prerequisite for a required course in your major. Other students may also be interested in taking calculus. Majors in some social sciences, such as Economics, and natural sciences, such as Geology, often take mathematics courses to complement their major, and Calculus is a common option. If you want to take calculus while at UMW, we want to know that you are ready for it! However, **if you have absolutely no interest in ever taking Calculus, there is no need for you to take the Calculus Readiness Exam.**



The image shows a piece of paper with handwritten mathematical work. At the top, the integral $\int \frac{x+5}{x^2-2x-3} dx$ is written. Below it, the work shows the decomposition into partial fractions: $\frac{5}{3} dx - \int \frac{2}{x-3} dx - \int \frac{1}{x+1} dx$. The final result is $= 2 \ln(x-3) - \ln(x+1) = \ln \frac{(x-3)^2}{x+1} + C$.

The Calculus Readiness Exam will give you instant feedback. It will recommend either (a) student should take precalculus before calculus, (b) student should do some careful review of precalculus concepts before registering for calculus, or (c) student is ready for calculus. Questions can be directed to the Chair of the [Department of Mathematics](#), Dr. Randall Helmstutler, at rhelmstu@umw.edu.

Chemistry

Students majoring in Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Environmental Geology or Environmental Science are required to take certain chemistry courses as part of their major course of study. Additionally, students planning to minor in Neuroscience or Pre-Preservation in Fine Art will also need to complete these courses. The Department of Chemistry requires a placement exam for students interested in taking *CHEM 111: General Chemistry I* or *Chemistry 101: Foundations of Chemistry*. The test either confirms that the student is ready for CHEM 111 or recommends *CHEM 101* before taking CHEM 111. Students



interested in taking General Chemistry as part of their academic plan will be asked to complete the placement exam at orientation. Please note that students who do not need or plan to take Chemistry 111 or 101 do not need to take this exam. Questions? The Chair of the [Department of Chemistry](#), Dr. Leanna Giancarlo, will be available at orientation. You can also email her at lgiancar@umw.edu.

Languages

Every student is required to satisfy *intermediate competency* in a language. For most students, this means completing through the “202-level” of a language curriculum. If a student begins their language study in the most basic 101 course, this could mean four courses in order to complete the language requirement (101, 102, 201, and 202). However, many students study languages prior to their arrival at UMW. In order to help place a student into the right level, we offer placement testing for Spanish, French, German and Latin.



In addition to the many students majoring in languages, students in areas such as Political Science, International Affairs, or other social sciences frequently complete modern language courses to complement their degrees. In addition, many students study Latin as part of their academic program. Students majoring in Classics, Philosophy, and many other disciplines often take Latin courses. Generally speaking, students study languages either as a requirement for their major, as a General Education requirement, or as an important complement to their major program.

Students can take a placement test in Latin, French, German or Spanish online prior to the summer orientation program. For most students, the online test will recommend the appropriate level to begin studies. Often this is at the 102 or 201 level. If a student places highly enough on the test, they will be exempt from 202, thus fulfilling the general education language requirement, and then be able to register for 300-level courses. Students who score high enough to be exempt from 202 will have to complete another placement test at orientation. Questions regarding placement in French, German or Spanish should be addressed to Dr. Betsy Lewis, Chair of the [Department of Modern Languages and Literatures](#), at elewis@umw.edu. Questions regarding Latin should be directed to Dr. Liane Houghtalin of the [Department of Classics, Philosophy & Religion](#) at lhoughta@umw.edu.

Please do not hesitate to contact the [Office of Academic & Career Services](#) at 540-654-1010 with any additional questions regarding your transition into the UMW community.