

Midwestern State Bridge to Mathematics

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Are there potholes in your road to mathematics literacy?

Students start MSU math courses with a wide range of mathematical backgrounds. Students with solid backgrounds do better than students with holes or gaps. There are many reasons for those gaps.

- Perhaps something was missed due to an illness or other special circumstance.
- Perhaps you are rusty in some area because you haven't practiced it for a long time.
- Perhaps you made it through your last math course successfully, but you are a little fuzzy on some of the things covered in that course.
- Perhaps you've already tried a course before but you just weren't ready.
- Perhaps you took your last course through the "easy" route so you could get a good grade, but you didn't learn all of what you needed to know for the next course.

The *Bridge to Mathematics Program* can help you get ready for your next math course at Midwestern State. This program helps you find the gaps in your mathematical preparation and gives you the opportunity to fill in those gaps before the semester begins. If you need to recover from a bad grade in a math course, this might be the right place to start over. If you do well you might be able to place out of your next math course.

Don't know which math course to take?

Should you take College Algebra or Precalculus? Should you take Precalculus or Trigonometry? If you've met the prerequisite for Calculus should you dive right in or would you be better off with a semester of Precalculus first? The *Bridge to Mathematics Program* can help you decide.

Precalculus Placement Exam

There are several ways to meet the prerequisite for MATH1534-Precalculus

- an ACT Math score of 22
- an SAT Math score of 540 (or 510 if taken before February 2016)
- Satisfactory score on a placement exam taken through the *Bridge to Mathematics Program*

Prepare to retake the TSI or to take a Departmental Proficiency Exam

- If your TSI score places you into developmental mathematics (MATH0003-Beginning Algebra or MATH1003-Intermediate Algebra), the Bridge Program can help you prepare for retaking the math portion of that exam
- The math department offers Proficiency Exams for College Algebra, Trigonometry, and Precalculus. The Bridge Program can help you prepare to take one of those exams.

Ready to start?

Send an email to mark.farris@msutexas.edu. Include

- Your Name and Mustangs ID (an M followed by 8 digits)
- The next math course you plan to take and the semester you plan to take it.

I will send you a file with instructions for how to sign up for an appropriate ALEKS Bridge course.

Want to hear more?

- This is a voluntary program. It costs \$25 and a little of your time—time that you can spend at your own pace between now and when the next semester begins. This fee pays for online access to one of my prep courses at ALEKS.COM. I receive no compensation other than the knowledge that I am helping you successfully complete your Mathematics requirements. To see a 4-minute video about how ALEKS works go to www.aleks.com and click on the TAKE A TOUR button just below the log in area.
- This program is completely on-line. You can participate as long as you have computer access to the internet.
- For more information contact: mark.farris@msutexas.edu or drop by to see me in the Math Dept--BO118

Notes:

- The Bridge Program is suitable for most developmental (MATH0003 and MATH1003) and freshman level math courses, even the co-requisite MATH0023/MATH1233.
- The Bridge Program won't help you prepare for MATH1053-Contemporary Mathematics or the co-requisite MATH0053-Developmental Supplement for Contemporary Mathematics.
- The Bridge Program only goes through the beginnings of Calculus I. However, some students have found it useful for reviewing the extra Precalculus skills needed in Calculus II.
- You can use ALEKS for "Independent Use" at a slightly lower rate, but you won't get the Bridge Program advice that is tailored just for the Midwestern State math course offerings.

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