

## Math Placement Exam Message

**DR. O'SHEA:** Hello. I am Dr. Edwin O'Shea with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at JMU

**TRAYMON:** and I am Traymon Beavers, a senior tutor at the Science/Math Learning Center.

**BOTH:** Welcome to JMU!

**TRAYMON:** As part of the class enrollment process at JMU, you are required to take a math placement exam. We want to talk with you about the importance of this exam and how it is used at JMU.

**DR. O'SHEA:** The purpose of the math placement exam is to determine your current level of mathematical knowledge and ability. The results of the exam will determine which math courses you are ready to take at JMU this fall so that you can have a successful start to your college career. All incoming students, regardless of their major, math ability, or existing math credit, take this exam. You will be directed to our link with practice problems later as part of your transition to the college process.

**TRAYMON:** I have assisted many students at the Science and Math Learning Center and have found that a lot of their problems result from enrolling in the wrong math course. It is important that you do the best you can on the test. If you fail to take it seriously and your score is lower than what you are capable of earning, you may be placed in a math class for which you are overqualified. And, if your major requires a math class higher than the one you place into, you may end up taking an extra math class that you didn't need. We want to help you avoid that!

**DR. O'SHEA:** On the other hand, we also don't want you to enroll into a class you are not prepared for and would have trouble passing. Additionally, understand that the JMU Honor Code applies when you take this test so you are not allowed to use any resources other than your personal math knowledge. That means not even calculators are permitted when you take the placement exam, so please practice the skills ahead of time before taking the exam.

**TRAYMON:** The math placement exam is computer-based and takes approximately 90 minutes to complete. We recommend you complete the test in one sitting, but you will be able to stop and begin again where you left off, if necessary. We offer a sample math placement exam which you can use to help prepare yourself for the actual math placement exam. There may be things on the sample exam that you have not seen or done before, and that is okay. Remember that the goal is to assess your current mathematical knowledge and ability, not for you to get a perfect score. Just do your best to review the material with the sample exam and when you feel that you are ready, log on and do your best on the online math placement exam. You will only have one opportunity to take the math placement exam prior to registering for classes, so please do your best and take it seriously.

**DR. O'SHEA:** Your score on the math placement exam will be split into two parts, one for placement into calculus-based courses and one for placement into statistics-based courses. When you register for courses, the system will check your math placement score against the course you are registering for to ensure that you meet the score requirement for that course. You will not be able to enroll in a higher level math course than your placement score recommends. Later, as you progress through the information modules, you will find more information about how your CALC and STAT math placement scores determine the courses that you may register for at JMU.

**TRAYMON:** Although you complete your class schedule based on your math placement scores, you may speak to your advisor about special considerations when you are on campus for your orientation appointment. For now, you should register for the math courses that you placed into so that you and your advisor will have a math course to work with in your schedule as a starting point.

**DR. O'SHEA:** So, do your best, follow the guidelines, and you will have an excellent chance at success in your first math class at JMU! Again, welcome to JMU. I, and the rest of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, look forward to meeting you soon.

**BOTH:** Good luck!