

To: SSU Entering Students, Fall 2009  
From: Ben Ford, Chair, Department of Mathematics and Statistics  
Date: 1 June 2009

Re: Summer options to prepare for mathematics at Sonoma State

Congratulations on your choice of Sonoma State for your college years! I believe you will have a great experience here.

If you have scored 50 or higher on the Entry Level Mathematics (ELM) Placement Examination (or have a qualifying score on the Early Assessment Program, SAT, ACT, or AP exam), you are ready for college-level mathematics work. To get some information about the appropriate mathematics course to take, you may wish to take the free online self-test below.

If you haven't yet reached that score of 50, then you are required to register for either Math 35 (Elementary Algebra – ELM score of 36 or below) or Math 45 (Intermediate Algebra – score of 38-48).

However, you have a **great opportunity** this summer to take care of the intermediate algebra requirement **before** classes begin in the Fall. Here are two options for doing that:

- We have arranged for you to have access to a FREE online self-test that will evaluate your strength and weaknesses in math. Once you take this self-test, you can enroll for \$35 (fee waived if your CSU application fee was waived) in an online course to help you improve your mathematics placement. **If you spend at least 30 hours on the online course, you are highly likely to improve your placement and avoid a full semester course that doesn't count towards graduation!** When you come to campus in the Fall, you would re-take the ELM on Saturday, August 22, and hopefully improve your math placement.
- Take and pass an summer Intermediate Algebra course at your local community college. If you do this, be sure to bring a grade report with you when you come to campus for the Fall semester. Your community college will likely have its own placement test you will need to take before registering. **I don't know of any online courses that satisfy this requirement.** There is a list of Intermediate Algebra classes that satisfy the requirement at [http://www.sonoma.edu/ar/admissions/remediation\\_institutions](http://www.sonoma.edu/ar/admissions/remediation_institutions)

Remember, the units earned in Math 35 and 45 do **not** count towards your SSU degree. Thus, it is a big advantage to complete this requirement before you get here.

**To access your free online self-test and find the appropriate online math preparation modules, go to [www.sonoma.edu/math](http://www.sonoma.edu/math) and click on the link for "Placement/Developmental Course Information."**

Have a great summer – I look forward to seeing you back here in the Fall, ready for your college Mathematics work!