



## Math Scheduling for Freshmen Frequently Asked Questions\*

**What math should I take freshman year? How do I know if I should take the math proficiency test?**

Current 8th Grade Math Class	Appropriate Course/Proficiency Test
Common Core Math 8; Pre Algebra; 8th grade Mathematics	Algebra I <u>course</u> during school year; or <u>proficiency test</u> to qualify for summer Algebra I
Yearlong Algebra I course; Integrated Math I; Common Core Math 9	Algebra I <u>proficiency test</u>
Yearlong Geometry course in 8th grade ( <i>have previously taken a yearlong Algebra I and they both appear on your transcript from an accredited school</i> ); Integrated Math II	Algebra I/Geometry <u>proficiency test</u>
Yearlong Algebra II course from an accredited school; Integrated Math III	<b>First:</b> Algebra I/Geometry <u>proficiency test</u> <b>Second:</b> students who receive a qualifying score on the first test may take the Algebra II <u>proficiency test</u> to place into Precalculus or Honors Precalculus

**I took Common Core math in middle school and I am not sure what math course I should take next year.**

We recommend that you take the math proficiency test for Algebra I so that we can place you at the appropriate level. If you choose not to sign up for the math proficiency test, we will place you in Algebra I as a freshman.

**Can I take a math class over the summer to advance to a higher level math in the fall?**

- We allow qualifying students to take either Algebra I or Geometry over the summer prior to freshman year. Students qualify by earning qualifying scores on our proficiency tests, as discussed in the table below.
- Students who earn a B+ or higher in each semester of Algebra I during freshman year have the option to take Geometry over the summer between freshman and sophomore year. They must earn a grade of B or higher grade to qualify for Algebra II or a grade of B+ or higher, and have a 3.3 GPA in math to qualify for Honors Algebra II.
- We do not allow any other math advancement over the summer.



**What score do I need on the math proficiency test to advance to the next math class?**

Test (see above for eligibility requirements)	Score	Placement Option(s)
Algebra I	<50%	Algebra I during school year
	50-59%	Algebra I during school year; OR, <i>(for students who have an A- or higher grade in their 8th grade math class only)</i> <u>both</u> semesters of summer Algebra I to advance to Geometry or Honors Geometry during school year, with qualifying grade
	60-69%	Algebra I during school year; OR, <u>second semester</u> of summer Algebra I to advance to Geometry or Honors Geometry during the school year, with qualifying grade
	70-79%	Geometry during school year
	80+%	Honors Geometry during school year; OR summer Geometry to advance to Algebra II or Honors Algebra II during school year, with qualifying grade
Algebra I/Geometry	30-49%	Algebra I during school year; OR, <u>both</u> semesters of summer Algebra I to advance to Geometry or Honors Geometry during school year, with qualifying grade
	50-59%	Geometry; OR <i>(for students who received "Honors at Entrance" distinction only)</i> Honors Geometry during the school year or summer Geometry to advance to Algebra II or Honors Algebra II during school year, with qualifying grade
	60-69%	Honors Geometry; OR summer Geometry to advance to Algebra II or Honors Algebra II during school year, with qualifying grade
	70+%	Algebra II or Honors Algebra II (student choice)
Algebra II	80%+	Honors Precalculus



### What math courses does Presentation High School offer?

You can find information about our math curriculum [here](#).

### How does my freshman placement impact my progress through the math curriculum?

The following are typical pathways from freshman year to senior year.

Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Algebra I	Geometry/Honors Geometry	Algebra II/Honors Algebra II	Precalculus/Honors Precalculus
Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Statistics I/II
Geometry/Honors Geometry	Algebra II/Honors Algebra II	Precalculus/Honors Precalculus	Calculus/AP Calculus AB or BC
Honors Algebra II	Honors Precalculus	AP Calculus BC	Honors Multivariable Calculus

### If I take Algebra I during freshman year, will I be able to take advanced math classes in order to be competitive during college admissions?

- Yes. Colleges emphasize four years of math so that students have a strong foundation for college-level courses. Typically, a freshman in Algebra I will be able to advance through Precalculus by the end of the senior year.
- A student also can take advantage of moving into honors classes by performing well in a regular Algebra I class.
- Many students do not take Advanced Placement math classes in high school and are still accepted to four-year colleges or universities.
- Students who receive a B+ in each semester of Algebra I during freshman year are eligible to take summer Geometry after freshman year and advance to Algebra II/Honors Algebra II in the sophomore year, if they receive a qualifying score in Geometry. This pathway would allow the student to take a calculus class prior to graduation. No other summer advancement is permitted.

### Can I self study and skip the Geometry class by taking a proficiency test?

- No. All students must take a geometry course from an accredited school. In addition to being a Presentation requirement, this is also a college entrance requirement.
- According to the [UC subject requirements](#): “All students must complete a geometry course or integrated math with geometry content.” Neither AP Calculus AB/BC nor IB HL Mathematics exam will satisfy the geometry requirement.
- Self-studying a course such as Geometry is not considered as complete. All of the math courses at Presentation are UC approved.



### **Can I advance through Algebra II over the summer so I can start high school in Precalculus?**

No. You should be very careful regarding Algebra II. It is a course that plays a crucial role in your success in advanced math courses. We do not allow advancement in Algebra II over summer. Algebra II must be taken at Presentation as a yearlong course.

### **I have already taken Algebra II. Why do I have to take the Algebra I/Geometry Test before I can take the Algebra II Proficiency Test?**

Algebra II curriculum varies across schools and we want to ensure that students have a solid foundation in Algebra I and Geometry as well. This solid foundation is necessary for students to be successful in our Precalculus and Honors Precalculus courses.

### **I tested into Honors Algebra II but I'm thinking I'll take regular Algebra II so I can ease into freshman year. Is that a good idea?**

Traditionally, freshmen enroll in Algebra, Geometry, Honors Geometry, or Honors Algebra II. Though you are advanced in your course subject, the regular Algebra II does not prepare you for future honors math classes. As an upper division math class, it becomes harder to jump from regular to honors. Even with an A in the course, Honors Precalculus would seem very difficult.

If you choose to take Algebra II, your path would be: Algebra II, Precalculus, Calculus, and then AP Statistics or AP Calculus AB or BC. If you pass the proficiency test to be placed in Honors Algebra II, we recommend that you to take the honors class so you can stay on the honors track throughout your high school math career. If choosing Honors Algebra II just seems like too much then we recommend starting in Honors Geometry which allows for AP Calc senior year.

### **I am currently in 8th grade math/Common Core 8/Pre-algebra and I see that I have the option to to take Algebra I next year or the Algebra I Proficiency Test to qualify to take Algebra I over the summer. How should I decide which to do?**

We recommend that you take the yearlong Algebra I class during the school year. However, some students are eager to advance more quickly. While this is not our recommendation, we do allow strong math students to study the Algebra I concepts on the test description and if they score high enough they may take Algebra I during summer school at Pres and if they earn an eligible grade they may begin Geometry/Honors Geometry freshman year.

### **I have already taken precalculus. Can I take calculus as a freshman?**

The Presentation Honors Precalculus curriculum is different from a standard precalculus curriculum in that it prepares students for AP Calculus BC; therefore, even if you have taken a precalculus course elsewhere you will have to take the precalculus proficiency test at Presentation before we place you in a calculus course. Upon receiving a qualifying score you may be placed in one of our calculus classes as a freshman.



### **What support is available at Presentation for students who are not strong math students?**

Peer tutoring is available at the study center at Presentation apart from additional support from teachers during their office hours. A strong math student signs up to be a peer tutor who is then assigned to students who need homework help on campus.

### **Can I switch from an honors math class to regular math if I find it too challenging?**

Yes, Presentation allows students to make the switch from an honors pathway to a regular pathway if a student finds an honors course too difficult than expected. A student has a one-week deadline to change the course that is announced in the daily bulletin. A student may not change the course after the deadline for requesting the change has passed. We do not allow making a switch for year-long classes in the middle of the semester.

### **Can I switch from a regular math pathway to an honors math pathway?**

Yes. If a student excels in the regular math class and meets the prerequisite for the honors classes they may choose to move to the honors level the following year. We do not allow making a switch for year-long classes in the middle of the semester.

### **Does Presentation offer math competitions?**

We offer monthly California Math League math contests during lunch and an annual AMC Math contest for students who are interested in competitive math. Participation in math contests also counts towards Mu-Alfa Theta (math honor society for juniors and seniors) membership.

*\*If you have any additional scheduling questions please contact the Director of Instructional Operations, Dr. Andrea Duvel, [aduvel@presentationhs.org](mailto:aduvel@presentationhs.org) or (408) 264-1664 x 2933. Se habla Español. For questions about math curriculum or contests please contact the math department chair, Ms. Shikha Naik, [snaik@presentationhs.org](mailto:snaik@presentationhs.org).*

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