



To: Undergraduate Academic Advisors  
From: Ben Boukai, Chair Mathematical Sciences  
Subject: Mathematics prerequisite checks on student registration & new online report form  
Date: May 25, 2006

The Department of Mathematical Sciences, together with the Office of the Registrar, is continuing to utilize the system of prerequisite checks and placement on all students registering for the following Mathematics courses: MATH M001, 001, 110, 111, 130, 132, 136, 153, 154, 159, 163, 164, 221, and 222; and MATH M118 and M119 (for reference, please see the attached course flowchart). The purpose of this system is to increase student success and retention in mathematics courses, while maintaining adequate placement in these courses. This system verifies the required prerequisite courses on the student's records as well as direct placement into the courses based on the student's score on the ACT COMPASS Mathematics Placement Test, whenever applicable.

We expect all advisors to continue to use the placement test recommendation, along with information about previous coursework and test scores to determine if a student has the background necessary for success in a particular math course.

**The IUPUI Testing Center conducts annual studies to validate course placement criteria. Overall findings from the validation studies for mathematics have revealed that compliance with the placement recommendation is conducive to student success. The most recent data demonstrate that the 'DFW' rate for students who do NOT comply with the placement test recommendation is significantly higher than the DFW rate for students who DO comply with the recommendation, in almost all cases.**

**The requirement upon the prerequisite check is that the student must have placed into the course via the ACT COMPASS Mathematics Placement Test within the past year, or successfully completed the prerequisite course within the past two years with the minimal grade indicated.** (For reference, please see the attached "Notice" and "Math Placement Testing.")

**We strongly discourage placing unprepared students in a specific math course simply in order to keep them "on track" in their curriculum.**

For several years, we have asked advisors to complete the "Report of Removal of Registration Block" carbon-copy paper form whenever you override the barring system with a course permission.

*We have now replaced this paper form with a NEW ONLINE FORM. The new report form is available at [www.math.iupui.edu/placement](http://www.math.iupui.edu/placement). Please submit this form whenever you override the barring system. If your department/unit does not have a person with the authority to grant math permissions, please send this form to Andrea Brian ([abrian@math.iupui.edu](mailto:abrian@math.iupui.edu)), academic advisor in the math department, and she will give the student permission for the specified course and class. The information you provide when you authorize a course override allows us to continue our annual assessment of placement recommendations.*

**NOTE: This page will NOT be accessible via any link on the math department website, so please bookmark this page. Other placement-related resources are also available at this site.**

We greatly appreciate your continued cooperation in this matter, as I am sure you recognize its importance to our efforts in increasing student success and retention.

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