

FIRST YEAR FAQ

MATH 1210

Introductory Calculus I

Professors: Dr. John Irving
and Dr. Diego Rojas

MATH 1210 (Introductory Calculus I) is a first course in university calculus and a required course for the Diploma in Engineering, as well as many B.Sc. Major programs in Science. To see if this course is appropriate for your intended Program of study, check the [First-Year Registration Advice](#) for Science students, or email your Science Advisors (advisor.science@smu.ca) before or after classes start to confirm your choice.

Textbook

CALCULUS: Early Transcendentals, by Stewart, et al. (9th Ed. CENGAGE) is sold as an **eBook** through the SMU Bookstore.

Upon purchase you will be provided with a code that will allow you to access an online version of the text. (Note: This code cannot be shared.) Instructions for proper use of the code will be posted on **Brightspace**, our digital learning platform. Your code will remain active for three terms, meaning it could be used again for MATH 1211 as well as for MATH 2311.

You are encouraged to delay your purchase of the text until after you have completed the Math Placement Test (see below).

Lectures and Recitations

You will have two traditional-style **lectures** per week. These will likely be some of the largest classes you take at SMU. You will also meet with a much smaller group of students once per week in a **recitation**, where you will have an opportunity to engage with the course material under the careful guidance of an instructor. Attendance in both lecture and recitation is very important. The worksheets that you produce in your recitations will make up a significant proportion of your final grade in the course.

What to Expect in Your Recitation

Recitations are interactive and intended as a space for learning and creativity. With the aid of free discussion, you will work with your peers to solve a set of problems based on the topics covered in previous lectures. During recitations, students are encouraged to ask the instructor questions about any aspects of the course material.

Calculators?

A calculator may occasionally be helpful to check your homework, but they are generally not permitted during recitations, tests and exams—so you will want to get used to working without them. Test questions are designed with this restriction in mind.



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Is There a Placement Test?

Yes. Your success in this course will depend not only on your experience this semester, but also to a large degree on your skill level coming into the course. The Math Placement Test helps to assess your readiness for MATH 1210. To stay enrolled in this course, you must meet the prerequisite criteria of a 65% grade on the Math Placement Test.

What's on the test? No calculus! The test is on important high school topics needed for success in MATH 1210. **Work through the test preparation practice materials first**, and then try the practice test located at the end of the practice materials.

If you cannot meet the placement test requirement, you may not stay enrolled in this course. If your planned major requires MATH 1210, you are strongly encouraged to take MATH 1190 in the Fall and then MATH 1210 in Winter. MATH 1210 is also available in the Spring term and MATH 1211 is also available in Spring and Summer terms.

The online placement test will be available through Brightspace. Watch for details about taking the test in an email to your _____@smu.ca account.

Taking MATH1250 instead?

If you plan to major in the life sciences, you may wish to consider Calculus for Life Sciences I (MATH 1250) instead of MATH 1210. This course has no pretest requirement and is scheduled concurrently with MATH 1190 and MATH 1210.

Tips for Success in MATH 1210

- Practice! The more problems you work on, the stronger your mathematical skills will be.
- Work with a friend or study partner(s).
- Add your instructor's office hours on your phone calendar/agenda, and drop-in to ask questions of your recitation instructor or your lecture instructor.
- And finally, a friendly reminder: Don't book your December travel until the Registrar releases the final exam schedule in the Fall!

