Frequently Asked Questions About College Prep Math

Q: Who can take College Prep Math?
A: The course is intended for high school students who have not been successful in traditional high school math classes and are not prepared for college-level math.

Q: How is College Prep Math different than a regular high school math course?
A: The developmental curriculum within College Prep Math utilizes an online learning environment that creates individualized curricular paths for every student. The mastery learning design of the software and on-demand instruction from the teacher allow students to learn math with greater success. When students have learned all of the topics in a module and pass the comprehensive final assessment with at least 80 percent mastery of topics, they move into the next module. Students have the potential to earn placement credit for all developmental math curriculum.

Q: Does this course award college credit?
A: No. College Prep Math is designed to help students improve math skills so they are prepared to take college-level math courses immediately when they get to college.

Q: Do college professors teach the course?
A: No. The curriculum modules were designed by Columbus State faculty, who train and mentor high school teachers on the technology and pedagogy of teaching the course. The high school teachers then teach College Prep Math.

cssc.edu/collegeprepmath

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A lack of proficiency in mathematics can be frustrating for students entering college, and can impede success and degree completion. In fact, one longitudinal study found that less than 25 percent of college students who begin in developmental education finish their degree or certificate (Bailey, 2009).

Preparing high school students for college-level math is essential to their college success.

To effectively prepare students to leave high school ready for college-level curriculum, the mathematics faculty at Columbus State Community College has designed College Prep Math for high school students. This program is designed to help students identify the areas they need to strengthen and develop their skills so they are ready for college algebra and equipped for success in college. In addition, they avoid paying tuition for developmental courses that do not apply toward their degree.

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Self-Paced Learning

This innovative approach to learning combines self-paced learning software with on-demand instructor support. Students practice skills in class at their own pace, both at home and in the classroom, using a series of modules that allow them to master concepts that build upon one another. Instructors are available to provide assistance as needed.

College Prep Math students begin in the Basic Math & Pre-algebra curriculum which provides them an individualized review of foundational mathematics.

Mastery Learning

College Prep Math is based on the concept of “mastery learning,” which involves practicing a skill until it is learned and can be demonstrated. Students are assessed often to determine if they are retaining what they are learning, and topics are re-presented to the students if mastery is not demonstrated.

Students have the potential to earn placement credit and bypass developmental curriculum in college.

Why College Prep Math?

- College Prep math is completely individualized, so students accept responsibility for their work progress, and success in the course.
- The online learning environment monitors time spent on each task and academic achievement.
- Instructors are available during class times to answer questions and guide students.
- On-demand instruction from the teacher is more meaningful when students are ready to apply what they are being taught.
- Students can spend more time on concepts they struggle with and less time on concepts that are easier for them, instead of learning material according to an instructor’s set schedule.

For additional information on College Prep Math, visit cscc.edu/collegeprepmath or contact the Columbus State Mathematics Department:

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College Prep Math = College-Ready Skills

While College Prep Math does not grant college credit, it can result in substantial savings of time and tuition dollars. The modules in the course are completed in high school, tuition-free. Students will begin with the module that aligns with their abilities, and can work their way up to readiness for college algebra.

Avoiding developmental math classes in college means students start in classes that apply directly to their chosen major, saving tuition dollars and getting students to their degree more quickly.