



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

THE DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

USAF ACADEMY, COLORADO



13 January 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR APPOINTEES

FROM: USAFA/DFMS
2354 Fairchild Dr, Suite 6D124
USAFA, CO 80840-6252

SUBJECT: USAFA Mathematics Placement Process

1. Greetings from the Department of Mathematical Sciences! Please read this letter carefully. It explains how we determine your first mathematics course. Success in mathematics will be critical to your academic success at USAFA. It is essential that you show up with a solid understanding of algebra, trigonometry, and pre-calculus.
2. Shortly after arriving at USAFA, you will take a mathematics placement exam covering algebra, trigonometry, pre-calculus, and differential calculus. It is a 90-minute exam, taken without a calculator. If you have not taken differential calculus, then you may leave that portion blank. **Your performance on this placement exam will be the primary factor that determines your initial mathematics course.** There will be an optional second exam on integral calculus for students seeking to place into multivariable calculus.
3. To help you prepare for the placement exam, we provide an online practice exam that pinpoints areas in which you need to improve. Go to <https://www.usafa.edu/department/mathematics/> and select the **Placement Exam Preparation** link. Take the practice test, and then work to correct any deficiencies prior to arriving at USAFA. It is very important that you do well on the placement exam and that we have an accurate picture of your mathematics proficiency.
4. If you have prior college credit or have taken the AP exam in calculus, then these factors may be taken into account in your initial placement, but they will not compensate for a poor performance on the placement exam. If you are seeking advanced placement beyond differential calculus (the typical first course in your academic program), you must exhibit very strong algebra and trigonometry skills, regardless of your performance on the calculus portion of the exams.
5. If you have taken any math courses in college, please send copies of your transcripts directly to the department using the address listed above (c/o Capt John Lira). You may send AP scores to Capt Lira as well, though we usually receive them directly from the College Testing Service.
6. Congratulations on your appointment to USAFA. You should be proud of this substantial achievement. If you have any questions on the mathematics placement process, please call Lt Col Kristopher Pruitt at (719) 333-2525 or the Department of Mathematical Sciences at (719) 333-4470.


SCOTT E. WILLIAMS, Col, USAF
Permanent Professor and Head