

What is the Calculus Placement Test (CPT)

The Calculus Placement Test (CPT) is for students who are planning to take Calculus at Boston College. The CPT covers material that is prerequisite for Calculus 1 and 2 courses. To help you be successful this fall, the CPT will give you information to determine which Calculus course is the best fit for you and what prerequisite material to review for the course you take. The CPT is computer-based, delivered online through Canvas.

Who needs to take the Calculus Placement Test (CPT)

- If you have not taken Calculus before, take the CPT.
- If you took Calculus but did not take a Calculus AP Exam (AB or BC), take the CPT.
- If you scored a 3 or below on the Calculus AP Exam (AB or BC), take the CPT.
- If you took a Calculus AP Exam but did not receive a score yet, take the CPT and register for the course recommended when you complete the test. When you receive the AP score, you should do the necessary placement adjustment. If you have questions, speak with the mathematics advisor at your registration session.

You should take the CPT prior to coming to Boston College for your First Year Orientation Session.

If you took the AP test (AB or BC) and scored 4 or higher, you do not need to take the CPT. Refer to the advising document [Calculus Advising Document 2025](#) for course placement. For students interested in Multivariable Calculus at BC, see the above document as well. No placement test is needed for these situations.

Instructions for taking the online Calculus Placement Test

- The Test is computer-based, delivered online through Canvas. It can be taken only once. You may take the test anytime, day or night, 24/7.
- Have your Boston College username and password information and any picture ID with you before starting the test.
- Log in to your Canvas at bc.edu/lms with your Agora username and password information. You cannot take the test without these login credentials.
- You will find the Calculus Placement Test as a course tile in the Canvas Learning Management System or here <https://bostoncollege.instructure.com/courses/1671604>.
- You MUST use a computer (desktop or laptop) with a webcam and the following required operating systems: Windows – 11 and 10, Mac – macOS 11 – 15.0+
- DO NOT use a Chromebook, iPad or other mobile device to access the Calculus Placement Test.
- Install the Boston College LockDown Browser tool. Instructions to do so are located within the Calculus Placement Test course in Canvas.
[Calculus Placement - Installing LockDown Browser \(Summer 2025\)](#) When you enter the course, make sure to carefully read the entire homepage.

- Take the practice quiz to help you troubleshoot LockDown Browser.
- Take the Calculus Placement Test itself with LockDown Browser in place. If you are planning to take Calculus 1, take Precalculus Content Test only. If you are planning to take Calculus 2, take Precalculus Content and Calculus Content test.
- Do your best. Do NOT use any form of calculator, computer or AI program. Do NOT ask for help from another person or look up information or answers from any outside resource. Otherwise, this will invalidate the recommendations and may end up recommending you for a course which is not the right level yet.

Technical and Other Support

- For technical assistance with your Agora username and password, contact Boston College's Technology Help Center at (617) 552-4357 (option #2) Monday through Friday 8:30 am - 6:00 pm EDT or <https://www.bc.edu/techchat> Monday through Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm EDT.
- For 24/7 technical assistance with the LockDown Browser or related issues contact Boston College's Technology Help Center at (617) 552-4357 (option #1).
- If after seeking technical assistance with the Help Center your issue has not been resolved, you need to email the Calculus Placement Test Administrator at bccptadm@gmail.com and await a reply email.
- The Administrator will reply to email within 48 business hours (M-F 9 am - 5 pm).
- Test takers with technical inquiries during the test should also email bccptadm@gmail.com immediately following the test.
- Should you need assistance with any non-technical test issue (e.g. to be added to the Calculus Placement Test Canvas site), do not contact the Help Center, but instead please email the Calculus Placement Test Coordinator, bccptadm@gmail.com

Special testing accommodations

If special testing accommodations are necessary, please email cptadmin@gmail.com with your accommodation information. We will determine whether it is possible to take it online or if an in person setting is necessary.

Math Core Other than Calculus

For students who want to take a Math Core course other than Calculus, please note that the Math Department offers two options:

- **MATH1007 Ideas in Math** *This course is designed to introduce the student to the spirit, beauty and vitality of mathematics. The emphasis is on development of ideas and problem solving skills.*

- MATH1004 Finite Probability and Applications *This course is an introduction to finite combinatorics and probability, emphasizing applications and problem-solving. Topics include finite sets and partitions, enumeration, probability, expectation and random variables.*

Students in LSEHD, CSON, CSOM also have other options. Talk to your advisor.

We look forward to welcoming you to our courses soon!