

New Student Orientation

Lyman Briggs College
Placement Exams



Lyman Briggs College
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

What we will cover today:

1. Math Placement Exam
2. Writing Directed Self-Placement
3. Foreign Language Placement Exam
4. Course Planning
5. Next Steps



Math Placement Testing:

- You MUST take your math placement test BEFORE your meeting with your Academic Advisor
- Everyone starts in the course that is best for their success at MSU
- This is important! Take your time, and take the test seriously
- You can take the test multiple times before you meet with an Advisor
- Be sure to send in your transcripts, SAT or ACT scores to MSU



NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

[First-Year](#) [Transfer](#) [International](#) [Families and Supporters](#) [Orientation FAQs](#) [About](#)

[Upcoming First-Year Orientation Programs](#)

[Preparing for Orientation](#)

[First-Year Student Checklist](#)

[Advising and Enrollment Information](#)

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

PREPARING FOR ORIENTATION



HOW DO I KNOW WHAT PLACEMENT ASSESSMENTS TO TAKE?

Math Placement Assessment is required for all incoming new students. If a student does not do the placement, they cannot be enrolled in the appropriate math for their major and may need to take additional math courses for graduation. Without a math placement assessment score, students can only get into the lowest level of math as the placement score is a pre-requisite for higher ones.

NOTE: To determine if your major may waive the University math requirement by proctored math placement assessment, please [click here](#). All other students can go directly to the math placement assessment using the link above and navigate to 'Take the MPS Assessment'.

Writing directed self-placement is a self-guided placement designed for students who wish to determine their placement in one of two primary first-year writing pathways. We encourage all new students to take this assessment because (1) it will help you understand how your skills and experiences map onto MSU's writing courses; and (2) it will give you a good idea of what to expect when you take a MSU writing courses.

Language placement assessments are recommended for all students who have previously studied a foreign language as you may continue with language study or need to meet a foreign language requirement.

NOTE: If you have questions about any of the placement assessments, please contact your advisor or the math, writing, or language departments directly.



Writing Directed Self-Placement:

- Required for students who did not send ACT or SAT scores into MSU
 - Determines writing placement
 - Allows for self-reflection
- Tier I writing at the University is WRA 101, LB students will take LB 133.





Placement Tests

What is the MSU Foreign Language (FL) Placement Test?

The foreign language placement test helps students register for the appropriate level course for a foreign language.

The unproctored placement test does NOT exempt a student from any language requirements. The College of Arts and Letters and the James Madison College have language exit requirements that must be fulfilled separately from the placement test. The placement test merely informs students where they should begin their language study at Michigan State University. Placing beyond the intro (101) level does NOT grant credit for any levels that the student places beyond. The placement test does NOT grant any university credits.

Placing out of 200-level language in a proctored environment (during New Student Orientation (NSO) or in the MSU Testing Office) can satisfy the language requirement for the College of Arts and Letters and the James Madison College, but again, no college credits are earned by taking the test.



Course Planning:

- Major and Minor Requirements:
 - Declare your major by junior standing (56 credits)
 - You can have multiple majors and/or minors
 - Pre-health and pre-vet tracks are NOT considered majors
 - Some majors have admissions requirements
- Elective/Exploratory
 - You can take elective courses
 - Help determine your interests
 - Electives can lead to majors or minors
 - Electives are often needed to reach 120 credits for graduation



Building your Curriculum

(What to take in your first year)

Mathematics is KEY for determining where you start in the sciences

Chemistry is a foundational science requirement, preparing you for biology and organic chemistry

General Education pre-requisites are important



Pacing your Curriculum

Tier I writing should be taken during your first year

Balance university requirements with major and college requirements throughout your time at MSU

Meet with your Advisor if you need help planning or revising your schedule

Think long-term when you are planning



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Next Steps:

1. Continue completing ALL the sessions
2. Review resources and complete activities for each session
3. Check your MSU email regularly
 - We will be communicating with you through your MSU email
4. Come back to this session as needed, when you are completing your Homework
5. Take any necessary Placement exams

