

Using a Transition Math Course for Placement at Illinois Community Colleges

Your high school is offering a Transition Math course which is a special type of class that is part of the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act. Seniors who successfully complete the transition math course will have a “pathway” to a guaranteed placement into the appropriate college math course associated with that Pathway. The placement guarantee is valid at all Illinois community colleges and any accepting Illinois universities for 18 months after the senior graduates from high school. A grade of C or better is required to successfully complete the transition math course.

How is a transition math course used for placement at any Illinois community college?

Upon completion of the transition math course with a grade of C or better, the high school places information on the student’s high school transcript. This information includes a code on which pathway was taken (see table below), the date the student graduated, and the grade in the transition math course. The student can present this high school transcript to any Illinois community college or participating Illinois university for college math course placement purposes.

The college math classes the student could register will depend on which Pathway was completed. There are three Transition Math Pathways: transitional STEM, transitional Quantitative Literacy/Statistics, and transitional Technical Math. Each high school can choose their own internal name for the course, so be sure to ask your high school which Pathway the senior is enrolled.

Each Pathway offers guaranteed placement into aligned college math courses at Illinois community colleges. You can contact the community college or university admissions/advising offices for assistance using a transition math course for placement. Remember the guaranteed placement from the Pathway course is only valid for 18 months after the date that appears on the high school transcript.

What college-level mathematics classes is the student eligible to take at Joliet Junior College?

Based on which Pathway was completed, the student is generally eligible to take the following college entry-level mathematics courses at JJC. Please note that some JJC courses have other prerequisites that need to be met in addition to the placement obtained by the Pathway completed. See a JJC advisor for details.

Transition Math Pathway	Aligned Math Outcome courses at JJC
STEM pathway (portability code TM001)	Math 119 Technical Math Math 123 Math for Elementary Teachers I * Math 127 Math for General Education Math 128 Elementary Statistics Math 131 College Algebra * Math 138 Pre-Calculus I
Quantitative Literacy and Statistics pathway (portability code TM002)	Math 119 Technical Math Math 127 Math for General Education Math 128 Elementary Statistics
Technical Math pathway (portability code TM003)	Math 119 Technical Math

* These courses also have a geometry prerequisite that must be met separate from the placement earned by the transition math course. To meet the geometry prerequisite, the student must provide high school transcripts verifying two semesters (a complete year) of high school geometry with an average grade of 'C' and no failing grade or score appropriately on the Geometry placement test at JJC or earn a grade of 'C' or better in Math 095 Geometry at JJC.



Can a student register for a course at JJC prior to completing the transition math course at the high school?

If the student wants to register for JJC classes prior to having a final high school transcript indicating successful completion of the transition math course, contact the JJC Math Placement Specialist. Her contact information is at the bottom of this handout. The Math Placement Specialist will determine if the student is potentially able to register for a certain math class. If the class is temporarily unlocked so the student can register, the student will need to provide to the JJC Math Placement Specialist an official high school transcript which contains the appropriate transition math information. The high school transcript must be provided to the Math Placement Specialist prior to start of the JJC math course; otherwise the student will be dropped from the JJC course.



The student took the JJC placement test ALEKS as part of this pathway. How does that relate to placement?

Participation in the transition math course requires the student to take the ALEKS math placement test both at the start and end of the course. By taking ALEKS both at the start and end, we can measure student growth during the transition math course. These ALEKS scores also assist in student advising and are used to improve the course.

An ALEKS score is traditionally used to place a student into math coursework at JJC. The table below shows how to interpret an ALEKS score.

JJC math course	minimum ALEKS score required to enroll
Math 090	0
Math 094, BMAT 101, TMAT 107	14
Math 095, 098, TMAT 108	27
Math 119, 123, 127, 128	40
Math 131, 138	46
Math 142	54
Math 137, 139, 150, 153	61
Math 170	76

An ALEKS score of less than 40 indicates that the student may not be ready for college-level math courses. However, the student will not be prevented from enrolling in the applicable college-level math class for that Pathway if the overall grade in the Pathway was a C or better. JJC always takes the highest placement measure. However, the ALEKS placement test is a good predictor of success in the aligned college course. If the ALEKS score received by the student at the end of taking the Pathway course is lower than 40, we strongly encourage the student to complete the free, customized, online review/remediation modules that is part of the ALEKS program prior to starting a college level math class. Otherwise, the student should expect that those college math courses may be particularly challenging.

What happens if a student does not pass the transitional math course with a grade of C or better?

Students who do not pass will be subject to the college's placement procedures. For instance, at JJC the most common ways to place a student into a math course is using the ALEKS placement test or using SAT/ACT scores.

Have questions? Need help?

The high school teacher may be able to answer some questions. For additional placement questions, contact the JJC Math Placement Specialist Carol Jackson at cajackso@jjc.edu or 815-280-2415.

You can also find details on transition math courses at <http://www.iltransitionalmath.org/>.

