

Placement Guide for Math 138: Precalculus – College Algebra and Trigonometry

What is Math 138? Math 138 is a second course in college algebra and precalculus, with the main topic being trigonometry.

Who should take Math 138? Math 138 is for students whose educational goal requires Precalculus and those who intend to take Math 150 (Calculus with Analytic Geometry I) and need Math 138 as a prerequisite. If you are eligible *and ready* to take Math 150 based on your self- assessment after reading over the [Placement Guide for Math 150](#) then you should enroll in Math 150.

Math 138 is for three categories of students:

- Students who intend to take Math 138 because their educational goal requires it.
- Students who intend to take Math 150 and have *not* yet completed a full college-level course in trigonometry but that *have* completed Math 137 (College Algebra) or its equivalent at another college. These students must take Math 138 before taking Math 150.
- Students who intend to take Math 150 and are already eligible for Math 150 and have a strong understanding of the *non*-trigonometric aspects of college algebra and functions, but, based on their self-assessment after reading the [Placement Guide for Math 150](#), have decided that they should start with Math 138 to become more comfortable with trigonometry before taking calculus.

Most students will not start with Math 138. If the last math class you passed is Intermediate Algebra or Algebra II or Math III (High School Common Core) then you will start with Math 137.