

Options for your first Mathematics Class at Oberlin College

It's normal to forget some of the mathematics you learned in high school. However, that does not mean you should retake classes. Typically, our classes incorporate review as needed. So, if you have taken calculus in high school—even if you don't have AP credit—then you should start with Calculus II or higher. Specific advice is below. Generally, the Math Department does not allow students to repeat classes.

- **General guidance.** Mathematics majors should work towards taking both MATH 220 and MATH 231—in either order—followed by MATH 232, CS majors towards taking MATH 220, and Physics majors towards taking MATH 231. If you are considering majoring in a social or biological science, then you may find a Data Science class more directly relevant to your major than a Mathematics class. Any math professor is happy to talk to you about your options.
- **MATH 130: Foundations for Calculus (offered fall & spring) or MATH 133: Calculus I (offered fall & spring).** You must be granted permission to register for these classes. MATH 130 is a foundational course for Calculus. There are no formal prerequisites, although high school experience with algebra, functions, and other precalculus topics is expected. To determine which is right for you, you must take the Placement Survey. To take this survey, follow this [link](#), or look for the Placement Exams section of Blackboard's Institution Page. After taking the survey, the Mathematics Department will contact you by email with your placement decision.
- **MATH 134: Calculus II (offered fall & spring).** No placement survey or consent is required. This class is appropriate if you have taken a Calculus class in high school—even if you do not have course credit—or if you have one of the following exam scores: a 4 or 5 on the AB Calculus AP exam; a 3 on the BC exam with an AB subscore of 4 or 5; a 5 on the IB Mathematics AA HL exam; or a 6 or 7 on the IB Mathematics AI HL exam. If you are already comfortable with the material from MATH 134—equivalent to a BC Calculus class and even if you do not have course credit—then you should instead take MATH 220 or 231.
- **MATH 220: Discrete Mathematics or MATH 231: Multivariable Calculus (offered fall & spring).** No placement survey or consent is required. These classes are appropriate if you are already comfortable with the Calculus I/II curriculum—even if you do not have course credit—or if you have one of the following exam scores: a 4 or 5 on the AP Calculus BC exam; or a 6 or 7 on the IB Mathematics AA HL exam. MATH 220 is also suitable for students with MATH 133 credit who have either taken CSCI 150 or feel ready for an intermediate-level mathematics course. It covers a variety of topics, including an introduction to mathematical proofs. MATH 231 is a continuation of the Calculus sequence. Taking these courses in either order is fine, though Physics majors should start with MATH 231 and CS majors should start with MATH 220.