

Options for your first Mathematics or Statistics Class

Choose whether to take a MATH or a STAT class based on your interests. If potentially majoring in a social or biological science, you may find a STAT class more directly relevant to your major. Potential CS majors should work towards taking MATH 220, Physics majors towards taking MATH 231, and Mathematics majors towards taking both MATH 220 and MATH 231, in either order (followed by MATH 232). Any math professor is happy to talk to you about your options.

- **MATH 131: Calculus Ia (Fall only) or MATH 133: Calculus I (Fall or Spring).** You must have instructor consent to register for these classes. MATH 133 is the standard one-semester course, while the sequence MATH 131/132 integrates pre-calculus topics with the same calculus content over two semesters. To determine which is right for you, you must take a Pre-Advisement Survey, which covers mostly precalculus topics. To take this survey, follow this [link](#), or look for the “Placement Exams” section of blackboard’s “Institution Page”. After taking the survey, you must contact an instructor to help figure out which course is right for you. If you are comfortable with the material from MATH 133 (even if you do not have Oberlin credit), then you should instead take MATH 134. The Mathematics Department strongly discourages students from repeating courses if they have received credit for work prior to Oberlin or show adequate proficiency of the material.
- **MATH 134: Calculus II (Fall or Spring).** No placement exam or consent is required. This class is appropriate if you scored a 4 or 5 on the AB Calculus AP exam; a 3 on the BC exam with an AB sub-score of 4 or 5; a 5 on the IB Mathematics HL exam; or if you are already comfortable with the Calculus I curriculum. If you are already comfortable with the material from MATH 134, then you should instead take MATH 220 or 231.
- **MATH 220: Discrete Mathematics or MATH 231: Multivariable Calculus (Fall or Spring).** No placement exam or consent is required. These classes are appropriate if you scored a 4 or 5 on the AP Calculus BC exam; a 6 or 7 on the IB Mathematics HL exam; or if you are already comfortable with the Calculus I/II curriculum. 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 potential Physics majors should start with MATH 231 and potential CS majors should start with MATH 220.
- **STAT 113: Introduction to Statistics (Fall or Spring), STAT 114: Introduction to Biostatistics (varies), or STAT 205: Statistics and Modeling (Fall only).** No consent is required. STAT 113 and 114 assume no prior knowledge of statistics and cover the same material, though STAT 114 emphasizes biological examples. A self-diagnostic exam to check your comfort level with algebra and numerical manipulation is available at this [link](#), the Mathematics Department’s “Resources” website. If you scored a 3 or higher on the AP Statistics exam, if you are reasonably comfortable with introductory statistics, or if you have a very strong mathematical background (even with no statistics background), then you should instead take STAT 205. It reviews everything from the AP Statistics curriculum, before continuing to more advanced topics.
- **Math classes labeled below 100 (Offerings vary).** You must have instructor consent to register for these classes. They have no prerequisites and are designed to be accessible to all Oberlin students, regardless of their prior mathematical experience.