

A photograph of a classroom scene. In the foreground, the back of a student's head is visible. In the background, a chalkboard is filled with mathematical equations. One student is pointing at the board. The equations include $f(x) = \sin(\pi x)$, $[a^x] = a^x \ln$, and $y' = \pi \cdot 2 \ln 2 \cos$.

Math Launch

Frequently Asked Questions

UCF is proud to offer select students the opportunity to participate in Math Launch, an admissions pathway designed to help incoming first-year students prepare for Calculus I and set them up for success in their chosen STEM major. With a focus on expanding students' knowledge and capabilities in algebra, trigonometry and pre-calculus, Math Launch provides students with the opportunity to become calculus ready in a single semester through a boot camp style, accelerated math course. Students selected to participate in the Math Launch pathway will begin their first term as part-time students and will be provided with a dedicated support team to assist them throughout their first semester.

PROGRAM

1. Why was I selected for Math Launch?

The expected math starting point for engineering, photonics, mathematics, statistics, computer science and most science majors is Calculus I. Based on your official records currently on file with UCF, you will begin your math sequence needing to complete one or more of the necessary math prerequisite courses to be Calculus I eligible.

2. Why is being calculus ready important to me?

Each major has a critical path of courses that lead from the first semester to graduation. Delaying or missing courses on this pathway hinders a timely graduation and, ultimately, costs you more money in tuition and future lost wages. Students needing prerequisite courses can spend one to four semesters, depending on which subjects they need, to become calculus ready. This means you could be in your second or third year of college before taking a course in your major.

3. How will Math Launch benefit me?

It works! We have over six years of experience running the EXCEL Math Bootcamp program and three years with Math Launch where students have been successful in accelerating their math placement. The Math Launch [course](#) provides you with additional support to help you be Calculus 1 ready sooner. As a student in one of our calculus based majors, this is critical to moving you forward and keeping you on track in your major. This will also get you into your major courses and eligible for more work experiences (research, internships, study abroad) earlier in your academic career.

4. I received an email letting me know that I have been enrolled in Math Launch. What action do I need to take next?

We encourage you to reply to the Math Launch team confirming you have received the notification. They can also answer any additional questions you may have at that time. Otherwise, be on the lookout for our follow up messages.

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5. What term is Math Launch offered in?

Math Launch is offered in the Fall, Spring and Summer terms.

6. What is required of me as a participant in Math Launch?

Students in Math Launch will be registered for the program's math course and will be enrolled in a maximum of 11 credit hours in their first term (excluding summer). Requirements for the math class will be discussed with students in the syllabus for the course.

7. What is the cost of Math Launch?

The Math Launch course costs the same as any other three credit course offered at UCF. The benefit is that you can potentially complete two to four subject courses in the term saving yourself that additional tuition cost.

COURSE

8. What is the Math Launch course?

The Math Launch course is a three-credit hour math course (MAC 1906). Each student selected for the program will be enrolled in this course for one semester. In this course, you will be expected to complete all of the calculus prerequisite courses you need which may be one to three subjects.

9. What is the structure of the course?

This is a semester-long course where students will work through content material at an accelerated pace with assistance from dedicated instructors, learning assistants and peer success coaches. You will be expected to complete your initial subject during the first six weeks of class. Each student may begin at a different point in the curriculum based on an initial proficiency test during the first week of class. Do not worry, students will start with the material of the class within which they originally placed at UCF and move up from there. It is the expectation that each subject should be completed in a four to six-week time frame in order for students to complete all of the prerequisite courses needed for Calculus I.

10. Is this an online course that I can start whenever I want?

No. Whether you need to complete four subjects or only one, this course begins on day one of the semester just like all other courses. You will meet weekly with your instructor and spend time in the Math Assistance and Learning Lab (MALL) where our learning assistants can assist you with the material. The course uses an online tool for mastering the material which is what allows each student the freedom to take ownership of their own path.

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11. How much time will it take?

Being successful in this course is all about 'time on task' from day one of the semester. We expect students will spend between 10-12 hours a week focused on their math studies. This is broken down into three hours a week in class, minimally three hours a week in open lab and the remaining time on your own as homework. Students with the desire to complete multiple subjects in a term may choose to spend more time to expedite their progress. For those who only need one subject, do not be fooled and do not procrastinate! Stay true to the designated schedule and finish your material early for more freedom for other courses later in the term.

12. Am I able to complete three math classes in one semester through this program?

Yes, assuming you need all three courses. Each student will have the opportunity to complete what they need in order to be Calculus 1 ready. The prerequisites for Calculus I (in order) are MAT 1033C Intermediate Algebra/MAC 1105C College Algebra, MAC 1140C PreCalculus Algebra and MAC 1114C Trigonometry.

13. Why I am I being asked to register for no more than 11 Hours?

Just because you are enrolled in only three credit hours for the Math Launch course doesn't mean you won't need to spend extra time on the course. In fact, you could potentially be completing the equivalent of three courses in one semester and your 'time on task' determines your success. Thus, we want to make sure you have the room and time in your schedule to devote to this course. A full-time load, in addition to this math course, would make this difficult. It is our recommendation that students commit to spending a minimum 10-12 hours a week working on their math modules. This would be the equivalent amount of time a student would spend on any 3-4 credit hour math class.

14. How do I find out what math I placed into or my math placement test (MPT) score?

If you have completed parts of the MPT, you can see your score in the Webcourse where you tested. If you have college level work you completed while in high school (AP, Dual Enrollment, AICE, CLEP, etc.), these courses or tests will determine your math placement. Your college will discuss this with you further at orientation.

15. What if I just need one math course for Calculus I?

We understand why taking just one standard course may sound more appealing, but think about what you are gaining within the Math Launch program. Rather than spending a full 16 weeks taking this one course, you could expedite your learning and finish earlier, freeing up time late in the semester for other critical courses. Additionally, you are able to skip topics you already know and the program provides you with additional support resources like learning assistants and peer coaches that you would not receive in the regular course. Most importantly, if you finish your one prerequisite in the first four weeks of class you can START Calculus I! Yes, you heard us, by the end of your first term you could finish your math prerequisite AND Calculus I putting you on track in your major. Students pursuing majors in the Colleges of Engineering and Computer Science and Optics and Photonics are required to take the Math Launch course in their first major semester.

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16. What happens if I don't complete it successfully?

The course is for credit (3 hours) and will reflect on your transcript and in your GPA like any other math course. You will have the opportunity to complete two to three subjects during this term. We expect that all students will complete the multiple subjects needed to become calculus ready or, minimally, to complete the course in which they begin. Progression through the initial course will count for the majority of your final grade. For those that are not Calculus I ready by the end of the term, we will gauge where you are in the process and make sure you get into the appropriate next class to keep you on track to calculus.

17. Can I be enrolled in the program for a second semester if not ready for Calculus I?

Yes, if you complete one course and begin work on a second. We will work individually with any student who may not be calculus ready to ensure they get into the appropriate course to keep them on track in their major.

18. How is my calculus eligibility determined?

The review for calculus eligibility is a fluid process and will be on-going through the start of classes your first semester. The initial check occurs before orientation for each term. The Math Launch team reviews the academic records submitted to UCF to determine a student's math placement. For summer and fall admits this review begins in May. For spring admits the review begins in December. At the time of review, the team will check your UCF MPT results and/or math credit earned through AP scores or passing dual enrollment grades PRIOR to graduating high school. Pending scores on AP/IB/AICE (tests completed in 12th grade) will not be used in your initial math placement, but will be considered once submitted to UCF. Eligible Math Launch students will be contacted at that time with details on the program. Upon receipt of any official scores/final grades, you must contact your college to evaluate your fall math enrollment and determine necessary changes. Students becoming calculus ready before the start of the term will be removed from Math Launch and directed to add Calculus I to their schedule.

19. I am eligible to start in Calculus I. Can I take this to brush up my skills?

No, we don't want you to get behind. You tested well enough to be in Calculus I and that is where we want you to start. If you are concerned about your prerequisite knowledge, there are plenty of resources available in case you feel you need to brush up while in the calculus course. We would also suggest you look into joining the [EXCEL program](#) if you are Calculus I ready and wanting extra support during your first year of college.

20. What do I do if I become calculus ready after attending my orientation?

The Math Launch team will be monitoring calculus readiness for anyone who became calculus ready through the Math Placement Test or by sending official copies of earned scores or grades to UCF. Once the team makes this identification, we will remove you from the Math Launch class and/or remove any limits placed



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on your first term registration. The team will then communicate to you that you have been removed from the program and you will need to enroll yourself into an appropriate Calculus course.

If you are unsure on whether or not you have requested scores/grades be officially sent to UCF, you will need to check with the organization that awarded you the college credit (i.e., for AP scores it would be College Board, for transcripts it would be your prior institution).

For AP scores, you can look on your College Board account to see if UCF was one of the schools you identified to receive your official credit.

- If not, immediately make the request to have official scores sent to UCF. This could take a few weeks.
- In the interim, you can email launch@ucf.edu with your official score report (make sure your name shows on the page with the score) to get yourself removed from Math Launch.
- Once removed from Math Launch, you can drop the MAC 1906 if it still appears on your schedule. You should then attempt to register for MAC 2311C Calculus with Analytical Geometry I or whichever level of calculus you placed into.

If you receive an ERROR message when trying to register for MAC 2311C, you should follow these steps:

1. Review class notes to make sure the course is not Honors, EXCEL or Global. These courses are closed for students who are members of those programs. If you ARE a member of those programs, contact them directly for a possible override.
2. Make sure there is not a time conflict. If the MAC 2311C overlaps with any of your other courses, you may need to swap the other course for a different section in order to get into the calculus course. Remember, the math is most important to your major.
3. If it turns out to be a true prerequisite error,
 - a. Make sure your score equals what you need to be calculus ready (see the [UCF catalog](#) for equivalencies). If so, then
 - b. This may mean your score(s) are not currently posted in the UCF system, and you will need to
 - c. Request an [override](#) for an open calculus course

21. Is this program only for College of Engineering and Computer Science (CECS) or College of Optics and Photonics (COP) students or can I still participate if I'm planning on changing my major soon?

At this time engineering, photonics, mathematics, actuarial science, biomedical science, biotechnology, molecular and cellular biology, molecular microbiology, statistics, chemistry, computer science, information technology, data sciences, forensic science and physics majors are included in the program. If you are planning to change your major, we would encourage you to do so as soon as possible. This will guarantee that you are receiving all of the correct information from the beginning of your academic career and not taking extra classes that can delay your graduation. If you need assistance, feel free to contact your current college and they will guide you in the process.

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22. What if I'm considering changing my major before class starts?

A lot of communication from and requirements of the university are driven by your selected major. You should always keep this information accurate in myUCF. If you are changing your major, then you should do so as soon as possible. If you are unsure about your major, contact your current college or the Knights Major Exploration and Transition Center to discuss your options.

23. What technology will I need during the program?

Nothing more than a computer and internet access. You will be able to use your own device (PC/Mac/laptop) for most of the work outside of class and open lab, however, computers will be available for you to use for all testing and knowledge checks.

FINANCIAL AID

24. How will this affect my financial aid?

Some financial aid programs require full-time enrollment. Financial Aid programs are often prorated to reflect a student's enrollment status. Students should visit the Program Eligibility Chart provided by financial aid to determine how less than full-time enrollment impacts their financial aid packages: <https://www.ucf.edu/financial-aid/resources/program-eligibility-charts/>.

Students receiving an Undergraduate Admissions Merit Scholarship (i.e., Provost, Pegasus Scholarships) will be given an exception to receive the full amount of the fall term award with less than 12 credit hours of enrollment for participating in this program. Students will be required to enroll full-time (12+) for the Spring 2026 term. They will also be required to meet the cumulative GPA requirement for renewal at the end of the Spring 2026 term. For the overall 2025-26 academic year they will be required to earn a minimum of 21 credit hours by the end of the Spring 2026 term. These exceptions are only for those participating in the Math Launch program and apply to the 2025-26 academic year only. Students may contact the Office of Student Financial Assistance at 407-823-2827 for more information. Tuition and Fee deferments will be updated to student's account the second week of classes. The UCF Math Launch team can assist with initial discussions and Financial Aid is the best resource for full details. You can contact our team by filling out the contact form on our website with your questions, or by emailing launch@ucf.edu.

25. What about external funding I may have?

Student Financial Assistance will contact the donor, organization, department to inquire if the student may still receive this funding given the student's enrollment is less than full-time. Students do not have to contact the financial aid office as this is normal business practice. Students will be informed via their UCF email account if the external funding must be returned to the donor, organization, or department. The Office of Student Financial Assistance is the best resource for full details and students may contact the office at 407-823-2827 for more information or email launch@ucf.edu.

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26. How will this impact Bright Futures?

Bright Futures requires half-time enrollment to receive funding. Bright Futures disburses funding per credit hour of enrollment. Academic Scholars receive 100% of applicable tuition and fees and Medallion Scholars receive 75% of applicable tuition and fees. The Office of Student Financial Assistance is the best resource for full details and students may contact the office at 407-823-2827 for more information.

27. Do I have to take more classes next semester to make up for this semester?

No. Institutional scholarship renewal requirements will be adjusted to accommodate this program. No need to stress yourself out taking extra credits in the next term.

MISCELLANEOUS

28. Is this program compatible with the GI Bill?

Post-9/11 Benefits pro-rate based on credit hours. Participation in Math Launch reduces your course load to the 9 to 11-hour range. That would limit your benefits to 75% of your eligible funding. The credit hours enrolled are verified each term and a return to a full-time load the next semester would return your Post-9/11 Benefit levels to 100%. Veteran Readiness and Education (Chapter 31) or Dependents Education Assistance (Chapter 35) does not have the same credit hour requirement. For more information on how the program may impact GI Bill benefits, please contact the Office of Military and Veteran Student Success at 407-823-2707.

29. How does this affect health or car insurance?

Most companies only require that you be a registered student, however, you should consult with your carrier for their exact policy. Once you determine what is needed, current students may obtain an Enrollment Verification (proof of attendance) through [myUCF](https://myucf.edu) for no charge. Additional information can be found here <https://registrar.ucf.edu/enrollment-verification/>.

30. How does this affect my UCF housing?

It doesn't! Students participating in Math Launch who are registered less than full time in their first major term (fall or spring) will receive an exemption of the Office of Housing and Residence Life's full time requirement. This exemption will only be for your first major term.

31. Who can I contact to discuss further details of the program with?

You can contact our team by filling out the contact form on our website with your questions, or by emailing launch@ucf.edu.