



Math Launch

Frequently Asked Questions

UCF is proud to offer select students the opportunity to participate in Math Launch, a unique program designed to help incoming first-year students prepare for Calculus 1 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 Math Launch 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 this program?

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

2. How will this program benefit me?

We have over six years of experience running the EXCEL Math Bootcamp program 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.

3. What term is the program offered in?

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

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

We encourage you to reply to the program 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 over the next few months.

5. What is required of me as a participant in this program?

Students in the Math Launch program 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.



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6. What is the cost of the program?

The course for the Math Launch program costs the same as any other three credit course offered at UCF. The benefit is that you can potentially complete 2-4 courses in the term saving yourself that additional tuition cost.

COURSE

7. 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 have the opportunity to complete all of the calculus prerequisite courses you may need.

8. What is the structure of the course?

This is a semester-long, accelerated course where students will work through content material with assistance from dedicated instructors, learning assistants and peer success coaches. 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.

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

No. 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 chart and take ownership of their own path.

10. 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. Students with the desire to complete multiple subjects in a term may choose to spend more time to expedite their progress.

11. Am I able to complete four math classes in one semester through this program?

Yes, assuming you need all four courses. Each student will have the opportunity to complete what they need in order to be Calculus 1 ready.

A photograph of a classroom setting. 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 writing on the board. The equations include $f(x) = \sin(\pi x)$, $[a^x] = a^x \ln$, and $y' = \pi \cdot 2^x \ln 2 \cos$.

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12. 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 term. 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 March. 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 advisor 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 1 to their schedule.

13. 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 advisors will discuss this with you further at orientation.

14. What if I just want to take the one math course I need for Calc 1?

We understand why that 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. The program also provides you with additional support resources like learning assistants and peer coaches that you would not receive in the regular course. However, it is your preference. If you desire to take only the one course, you can let your advisor know at orientation. You will still have the 11 credit hour limit on your registration.

15. 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 Calc 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 the MALL 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.



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16. 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 four 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 and 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.

17. 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 three to four classes during this term. We expect that all students should be able to complete at least the course in which they begin. Progression through this initial course will count for the majority of your final grade. For those that are not calculus 1 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.

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

Yes. 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.

19. Is this program only for CECS or OP students or can I still participate if I'm planning on changing my major soon?

At this time engineering, photonics, mathematics, actuarial science, statistics, chemistry, computer science, 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. If you need assistance, feel free to contact your current advisor and they will guide you in the process.

20. 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 advisor or the Knights Major Exploration and Transition Center to discuss your options.



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21. 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 if you like, however, computers will be available for you to use for all testing and knowledge checks.

FINANCIAL AID

22. How will this affect my financial aid?

Some financial aid programs require full-time enrollment. 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 2024 term. They will also be required to meet the cumulative GPA requirement for renewal at the end of the Spring 2024 term. For the overall 2023-24 academic year they will be required to earn a minimum of 27 credit hours by the end of the summer 2024 term for renewal purposes. These exceptions are only for those participating in the Math Launch program and apply to the 2023-24 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.

23. 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 Knight's 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.

24. 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.

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25. 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.

26. 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 in Spring 2023 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.

27. 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/>.

28. How does this affect my UCF housing?

It doesn't!

29. 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.