In order to satisfy the mathematics requirement, undergraduates must take the core sequence Math 1abc in their freshman year. Most options also require Ma 2 and/or Ma 3, subsequent to Ma 1. While some of the material in Ma 1-3 might seem familiar, Caltech courses are at a higher level and require students to utilize rigorous proofs and critical thinking at every stage.

There are two sets of exams in mathematics for incoming freshmen:

1. **Calculus Diagnostic Exams (Required) – Available May 31, 2019. Due June 14, 2019.** This exam has two parts and both are required for all students; the results determine which section students will be placed in for Ma 1a. **The diagnostic exam is required whether or not you wish to place out of any portion of the math sequence.**

2. **Advanced Placement Exams (Optional) - Due July 15, 2019.** The advanced placement exams are available to students who wish to place out of one or more of the courses in the required Ma 1abc sequence, Ma 2 and Ma 3. There are a total of 5 tests. Advanced placement can only be obtained by achieving a certain minimum score on the exams, not on the basis of AP scores or courses taken elsewhere. Students may not take these exams after the due date, or otherwise receive such credit and placement later.

The tests can be found at [placement.caltech.edu](http://placement.caltech.edu). You can access this website using the login instructions for the writing placement test. More information about the tests can be found at [http://pma.caltech.edu/research-and-academics/mathematics/math-undergraduate-studies/information-for-freshmen/diagnostic-and-advanced-placement-tests](http://pma.caltech.edu/research-and-academics/mathematics/math-undergraduate-studies/information-for-freshmen/diagnostic-and-advanced-placement-tests). If you have questions, please contact [mailto:mpmaplacement@caltech.edu](mailto:mpmaplacement@caltech.edu). Math course recommendations for freshmen can be found at [http://pma.caltech.edu/research-and-academics/mathematics/math-undergraduate-studies/information-for-freshmen/course-information-for-freshmen](http://pma.caltech.edu/research-and-academics/mathematics/math-undergraduate-studies/information-for-freshmen/course-information-for-freshmen).

Sincerely,

Elena Mantovan
Executive Officer for Mathematics