

Challenge Exams in Mathematics

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Some students know the material of basic mathematics classes without having transferrable college credit that would resolve prerequisites and graduation requirements concerning this material. Typical situations of this are students who transferred from other countries (with only partial transfer credit for the school and college work), or students who took an AP-level course without sitting the AP exam.

There are two ways how such a situation might be resolved without having to take the respective class again. One, in case there is transfer credit that does not resolve prerequisites (in particular transfer credit as MATHx++ instead of numbered classes) is to request re-evaluation of the class. (To do so, get the *Transfer Course Equivalency Re-evaluation* form from the registrar's web pages and contact Hilary Freeman, freeman@math.colostate.edu.)

The second option is to take a departmental challenge exam for the respective class. The mathematics department will let you take such an exam if

- The class you are planning to challenge is a lower division class or MATH340 or MATH369.
- You are currently not enrolled in the respective class.
- You never took the respective class (or an equivalent class) on the college level (regardless whether you transferred credit or not). (This means in particular we will not let you sit a challenge exam for a class you previously failed or if you failed an equivalent class before.)
- You have not failed a CSU challenge exam in mathematics before.

The challenge exam will be comprehensive for the material of the whole class as it is currently running at CSU. It will be set up for 2-4 hours (depending on the class and the instructor). We recommend that you inform yourself about relevant topics and textbooks for the respective class before taking the exam.

To challenge a mathematics class, get the CSU Challenge exam form from <http://testing.colostate.edu/challenge/> and bring it to the mathematics department. Briefly assert to the associate chair that you want to take a challenge exam and that you fulfill the conditions of the exam.

Take the signed form to the University testing center. Then

- The university will charge you \$20 per credit challenged. (I.e. \$80 for MATH160.)
- The testing center will contact the mathematics department which will create and set up the exam. (This may take a few weeks, in particular if the exam needs to be written.)
- We will contact you for taking the exam. We will also inform you whether you are allowed use of any tools (e.g. calculators) for the exam.
- Most likely you will do so in the PACe center (Weber 136) and we will give you a range of one or two weeks to do so. You can come at your choice during the opening hours of the pace center. These hours are listed on the web, make that you arrive early enough to have sufficient time for completing the exam. You will need to bring your CSU ID (not driving license etc.) for identification purposes.
- We grade the exam (pass/fail only) and report the result to the testing center.
- While we endeavour to process challenge exams quickly, we cannot necessarily promise that a challenge exam will be graded by a particular deadline. In particular we cannot guarantee that a challenge exam requested only in the last weeks of a SP/FA term will have established prerequisites before the start of the following FA/SP term.

Assuming that you passed the exam, this will resolve all requirements (graduation requirements, prerequisite for other classes) to this particular class at CSU. It however will not establish credit hours for a degree (major, mathematics minor) and will not contribute to GPA or any specific credit hour or residence requirements. It also will not transfer to other universities.