

Proper Placement in the Finite/Statistics Pathway MATH 098/120

MATH 120 is offered in two ways: As a stand-alone course taken on its own, or as a corequisite pair, taken in conjunction with a support course. Please carefully consider the following to ensure that you have the greatest chance at success!

What is a Corequisite Course? MATH 098 is a 3-credit support course that is taken concurrently with MATH 120. The goal in MATH 098 is to provide students exposure to or reminders about the topics and techniques in mathematics that are necessary for success in Finite Math. MATH 098 is split into several units that mirror the units in MATH 120. The practice with foundational skills in MATH 098 will occur just in time for those skills to be utilized in deeper MATH 120 applications.

Who Should Take the Corequisite Pair of Courses? (098 and 120 together)

- Students who struggled to understand the concepts taught in previous math courses (below 70% retention on tests).
- Students who need to refine and sharpen their algebra skills.
- Students that have not yet successfully completed through Algebra II.
- Students who may benefit from additional instruction and practice in a structured setting.
- Students that would like to increase their confidence and their capacity to learn mathematical concepts.

Who Might Be Successful in The Stand-Alone Course? (120 only)

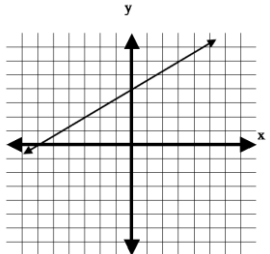
- Students that have already taken Precalculus and above.
- Students that were relatively successful in previous math courses (75% or above on tests).
- Students who feel fairly confident in their ability to learn math with adequate instruction, time, preparation, and practice.
- Students who are willing to independently seek out extra support if needed.
- Students who feel fairly confident in their understanding of the foundational skills that are necessary for success in MATH 120 (see Prerequisite Skills Quiz on p. 2).

Potential Consequences of Misplacement:

- **Underprepared for MATH 120** - If you place yourself in the stand-alone course and are underprepared in the foundational skills, you may become overwhelmed or struggle to keep up.
- **Overprepared for MATH 098** - If you place yourself in the corequisite support course and don't actually need it, you may lose interest or motivation to complete assignments.
- **Taking a Class Unnecessarily** - If your program does not require MATH 120, but you are using it as a path to get to MATH 216 or 220, you may want to take the ALEKS Placement Test to see if you can test directly into those courses. Both require an ALEKS score of 61 or higher.

ALEKS Placement Test (PPL) – If you would like to assess your current skill level in math, you have the option of taking a virtual placement test via this link: www.kvcc.edu/services/testing/placement.php. An ALEKS score of at least 46 is suggested to be successful in MATH 120. Upon completion of this test, you will also gain access to individualized learning modules where you can review topics and increase your content knowledge.

Prerequisite Skills Quiz – To take MATH 120 as a stand-alone course, students should be able to confidently complete the quiz below, showing work to support their answers. A calculator should be the only aid utilized. Check your solutions. If you are comfortable with these tasks and get most of them right, you may not need the support course. If the concepts are unfamiliar and/or you get several of them wrong, you may want to consider taking MATH 098 along with MATH 120.

Questions:	Solutions:
1. Simplify using the Order of Operations: $6^2 - 12 \div 3(4)$	20
2. Evaluate $4x^2 - 3x + 1$, when $x = 3$.	28
3. Simplify: $4(3r + 7) - 2(3r + 1)$.	$6r + 26$
4. Solve: $3a - 11 = 19$	$a = 10$
5. Solve: $5x - 4 = 6x + 10$	$x = -14$
6. Solve $16x + 2y = 10$; for y .	$y = -8x + 5$
7. Find the slope of the line that travels through $(3, 7)$ and $(5, -1)$.	$m = -4$
8. Graph the line $y = \frac{2}{3}x + 4$.	

MATH 098/120 Course Coordinator – If you have further questions about either of these courses, please reach out to Shelley DeLeeuw at sdeleeuw@kvcc.edu.

Actions for Students Questioning Placement:

- **Talk to Your Instructor** – If the semester begins and you think you might be misplaced, please reach out to your instructor so you can make that determination together. Some schedule adjustments may require your instructor to submit additional paperwork to authorize the changes.
- **Adding MATH 098** – Drop the stand-alone course and add the pair of courses (two new CRN #'s).
- **Dropping MATH 098** – Drop the pair of courses and add the stand-alone course (one new CRN #).
- **What if even MATH 098 is too difficult?**
 - **Option 1:** Drop/withdraw from the pair of courses and work independently in ALEKS PPL modules or with our math coach to build skills (a less structured approach).
 - **Option 2:** Complete the free Gateway to College Math Program (a structured 6-week course with an instructor). Visit <https://www.kvcc.edu/math/> for more information.