You are required to take this exam if you plan a major which requires Math 110: College Algebra; Math 155: Trigonometry and Elementary Functions; Math 206: Introductory Discrete Mathematics; Math 210: Finite Mathematics; Math 211: Calculus for Business and Social Science; or Math 229: Calculus I. An adequate score on this exam is one way to meet the prerequisite for each of these courses. Students not meeting the prerequisite for a course will not have access to that course. This exam may be taken only once. Calculators may NOT be used for this exam. The following areas of study, for example, have programs which require one of these courses:

- accountancy
- anthropology (B.S. majors only)
- athletic training
- biochemistry
- biological sciences
- business administration
- chemistry
- communication (B.S. majors only)
- community leadership and civic engagement (B.S. majors only)
- computer science
- early childhood studies
- economics (B.S. majors only)
- electrical engineering
- elementary education
- environmental studies
- family and child studies
- fashion merchandising
- finance
- geography
- geology
- history (B.S. majors only)
- hospitality management
- industrial engineering
- journalism (B.S. majors only)
- kinesiology
- management
- marketing
- mathematics
- mechanical engineering
- medical laboratory sciences
- nursing
- nutrition, health & wellness
- operations management
- philosophy (B.S. majors only)
- physical education
- physics
- political science (B.S. majors only)
- pre-dentistry
- pre-medicine
- pre-optometry
- pre-osteopathy
- pre-pharmacy
- pre-physical therapy
- pre-podiatry
- pre-veterinary medicine
- psychology (B.S. majors only)
- public health
- sociology (B.S. majors only)
- special education
- speech-language
- pathology/audiology
- statistics
- technology

The exam is also required of students in any program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and for any students who are Undecided majors. Transfer students who have completed the mathematics requirement for their NIU program of study need not take the Mathematics Placement Exam.

The Mathematics Placement Exam deals mainly with the subject matter of high school algebra and trigonometry. The first part contains questions on such topics as solutions to equations and inequalities, functions and graphs in the plane, exponential and logarithmic functions, systems of equations, and polynomials. The second part of the exam has questions on the trigonometric functions and their graphs, solutions of triangles, trigonometric identities, and the addition formulas.

Students have the option of taking a paper/pencil version of the Math Placement Exam on NIU’s main campus OR taking a computer based version at a specific off-campus location. For a list of off-campus locations contact Testing Services or go online to www.niu.edu/testing.

Registration: Testing dates require advance registration. Seating is limited. Register to test on-line at www.niu.edu/testing.

Results and interpretation material will be available immediately following testing. Questions concerning the Mathematics Placement Exam may be directed to the Department of Mathematical Sciences, (815) 753 6723.