

FALL 2025

FIRST YEAR FAQ

MATH 1210

Introductory Calculus I

Professors: Dr. Diego Rojas
and Fatemeh Bayeh

MATH 1210 (Introductory Calculus I) is a first course in university calculus and a required course for the Diploma in Engineering, as well as many B.Sc. Major programs in Science. To see if this course is appropriate for your intended Program of study, check the [First-Year Registration Advice](#) for Science students, or email your Science Advisors (advisor.science@smu.ca) before or after classes start to confirm your choice.

Textbook

CALCULUS: Early Transcendentals, by Stewart, et al. (9th Ed. CENGAGE) is **included** as an **eBook** with the **Access Code** for **WebAssign**.

Purchase of the Access Code/eBook (\$90) will be done through **Brightspace**. Your Access Code will be good for three terms and could be used for MATH 1211 as well as for MATH 2311.

Homework and on-line quizzes will be done through WebAssign, and will count towards the term grade.

Lectures and Recitations

A large number of students take this course, so there are two lecture sections (A and B) taught at the same time. Your lecture section will meet twice a week in a traditional-style lecture. You will also meet with a much smaller group of students once a week in a (required) recitation. Attendance in both lecture and recitation is very important, and the *workshops* that you will produce in your recitation period will make up a significant proportion of your final grade in the course.

What to Expect in Your Recitation

Recitations are interactive and intended as a space for learning and creativity where, with the aid of free discussion, you will solve a set of problems: the weekly workshop (based on the material covered in previous lectures). During recitation, students are encouraged to ask the instructor questions about the homework, lecture, and workshop.

Calculators?

A calculator will be advantageous during lectures, but you will want to get used to working without a calculator so that you are prepared for tests and exams, where calculators are not allowed. You'll be asked to not use them in recitations.



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Is There a Placement Test?

Yes. Your success in this course will depend not only on your experience this semester, but also on your skill level coming into the course. The Math Placement Test helps to assess your readiness for MATH 1210. So, to stay enrolled in this course, you must meet the prerequisite criteria of a 65% grade in the Math Placement Test (or else have previously taken and passed MATH 1190).

What's on the test? No calculus! The test is on important high school topics needed for success in MATH 1210. **Work through the test preparation practice materials first**, and then try the practice test located at the end of the practice materials.

If you cannot pass the placement test, you may not stay enrolled in this course. If your planned major requires Math 1210, you are strongly encouraged to take Math 1190 this term and then do Math 1210 in Winter. Both Math 1210 and Math 1211 are also available in Spring and Summer terms.

The online placement test will be available through Brightspace. Watch for details about taking the test in an email to your _____@smu.ca account.

Taking MATH1250 instead?

If you plan to major in the life sciences, you are encouraged to take Life Sciences Calculus (MATH 1250) which is designed for majors in the life sciences. Math 1250 has no pretest and is being offered at the same time as MATH 1190 and MATH1210.

Tips for Success in MATH 1210

- Practice! The more problems you work on, the stronger your mathematical skills will be.
- Work with a friend/study partner.
- Add your instructor's office hours on your phone calendar/agenda, and drop-in to ask questions of your recitation instructor or your lecture instructor.
- And finally, a friendly reminder: Don't book your December travel until the Registrar releases the final exam schedule in the Fall!



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