

The Central Texas Student Guide for Choosing Math Courses



Did you know that completing four years of mathematics in high school is linked to higher salaries as an adult? Keep reading for more information about selecting your mathematics pathway!

STEP 1

Take Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2.

STEP 2

Look for your career interest and enroll in the right math course. Take the course for college credit, if possible.

Career Fields and Programs of Study by Most Common Math Requirement

There is consensus across the Central Texas region (and across the state) that the following majors and career clusters require the listed entry-level college mathematics course.

College Major/Career Field	Recommended Entry-Level College Mathematics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liberal Arts/Humanities <i>(e.g., Communications, English, History, Journalism)</i> Fine Arts <i>(e.g., Dance, Design – Fashion or Interior, Music, Visual Arts)</i> 	Contemporary Mathematics* (also called Quantitative Reasoning)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Sciences <i>(e.g., Criminal Justice, Geography, Sociology, Political Science/Government)</i> Social Services <i>(e.g., Social Work)</i> Nursing and Health Professions <i>(e.g., Dental Hygiene, Kinesiology)</i> 	Elementary Statistics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business and Accounting <i>(e.g., Economics, Finance)</i> Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics <i>(e.g., Chemistry, Computer Science)</i> Elementary Education 	College Algebra, PreCalculus, Calculus

* In Texas, the high school course is called Advanced Quantitative Reasoning, and the entry-level college course may be called Contemporary Math, Quantitative Reasoning, or other. If you can take courses for dual credit when you consider these courses, the best option is to take the college-level version for dual credit.

STEP 3

Confirm the right math course for the institutions you are considering, as requirements may vary slightly.

STEP 4

Get an early start by asking your counselor or teacher whether the math course is available for college credit.

Central Texas Higher Education Institutions Math Requirements by Major or Program of Study

The following list are links to the college's or university's course requirements for each major or program of study. (See the last page for full sources.)

[Austin Community College](#)
[Concordia University](#)
[Huston-Tillotson University](#)

[Southwestern University](#)
[St. Edward's University](#)
[Temple College](#)

[Texas A&M University](#)
[Texas State University](#)
[The University of Texas at Austin](#)

STEP 5

Take math every year of high school. If you can take a 5th math course, pick another college-level course.

Why is taking math every year of high school so important?

Taking math every year of high school improves your preparation for and success in college whether you want to earn an industry-recognized credential (1-2 years), an associate’s degree (2 years), or a bachelor’s degree (4 years). In turn, credentials and degrees lead to increased hiring opportunities and earnings potential.

Taking a year off of math in 12th grade makes it harder to be successful in math once you get to college. In addition to taking math every year in high school, take math in your first semester of college.

If, in your junior year, you took...	a course typically taken before Algebra 2...	Then in your senior year, take...	Algebra 2.
	Algebra 2...		A course that is required in your intended major or field of study (refer to the table on page 1 to make a decision about your next math course).
	PreCalculus and plan to go into a field requiring Calculus...		AP Calculus.
	PreCalculus and want to explore a different math pathway, or intend to pursue a program of study that does not require Calculus...		Contemporary Math* or Statistics for dual credit through your local college, OnRamps , or Advanced Placement.
	The high school versions of Statistics or Quantitative Reasoning*...		Statistics, Contemporary Math,* or PreCalculus for dual credit through your local college, On-Ramps , or Advanced Placement.

What if I change my mind about my career?

- It is okay to change your mind! All of the 4th year courses listed above provide a strong foundation of advanced mathematics concepts and college mathematics courses. If you change your mind and your program of study requires a different mathematics course, you will be prepared for success in any of the mathematics pathways.
- The best choice is whichever math course is most likely to be required by the range of programs you think you want to study at the time you are making your decision.

* Advanced Quantitative Reasoning and Contemporary Math courses have similar content. In Texas, the high school course is called Advanced Quantitative Reasoning and the entry-level college course may be called Contemporary Math, Quantitative Reasoning, or other. If you can take courses for dual credit when you consider these courses, taking the college-level version for dual credit is usually the best option.

College/University Webpages

Austin Community College. *Academic & career programs.*

<https://www.austincc.edu/academic-and-career-programs?ref=ddm>

Concordia University. *Majors and programs.*

<https://www.concordia.edu/academics/majors-and-programs/>

Huston-Tillotson University. *Degrees.*

<https://htu.edu/academics/degrees>

Southwestern University. *Majors & minors.*

<https://www.southwestern.edu/academics/majors-minors/>

St. Edward's University. *Current degree plans.*

<https://stedwards.app.box.com/s/e26whgegscl02pet78b8lh5l4pw6rwl0/folder/118335956494>

Temple College. *Programs and areas of study.*

<https://www.templejc.edu/programs/>

Texas A&M University. *Majors.*

https://careercenter.tamu.edu/Resources/Exploring_Career_Paths/My-Major/Majors

Texas State University. *Undergraduate degree list.*

<https://www.admissions.txst.edu/explore/academics/majors-and-degrees.html>

The University of Texas at Austin.

<https://www.utexas.edu>