

How to prepare for MATH 1342

1. Reading.

a. **Have you met the TSI requirement in reading?**

If not, you should do that before enrolling in MATH 1342.

b. **Is your native language English?**

If not, don't take MATH 1342 until you feel fairly comfortable taking courses like those in social sciences or business. Some students expect that math courses will have mostly computation and so their language skills aren't so crucial. Language skills are crucial in MATH 1342.

c. **Are you coming directly from high school?**

If so, please note that college courses have much less class time than high school courses and you are expected to read and work through quite a lot of material on your own. If that sounds intimidating to you, it will be better for you to take some other college courses first to adjust to the reading and the pacing before you take MATH 1342.

2. Mathematics.

a. **Have you met the TSI requirement in mathematics?** If not, you are required to meet it before taking MATH 1342.

b. **Did you pass Algebra II in high school?**

- i. If not, you have not been exposed to as much mathematics as needed, and you are likely to have trouble with MATH 1342. You should plan to finish MATD 0390, Intermediate Algebra, at ACC to obtain the equivalent mathematical sophistication. Also, that will satisfy the TSI mathematics requirement.

If you are still in high school, you definitely should not take MATH 1342 until you have completed high school Algebra II, even if you have met the TSI requirement in mathematics. Without Algebra II, it is unlikely that you have the sophistication with word problems and college-level courses needed to pass MATH 1342.

- ii. **If you did pass Algebra II in high school, but have not met the TSI requirement in mathematics**, a reasonable plan is to finish MATD 0370, Elementary Algebra, AND studying for and passing the THEA test. The *Study Guide* for the THEA that costs \$20. The material you will study for the THEA test is more relevant to MATH 1342 than the material you will study for the COMPASS test, but passing the TCOMPASS test will also meet the requirement. Taking MATD 0390, Intermediate Algebra, to meet the requirement is allowed, but it is not required because you have seen those topics in high school Algebra II and we only use the general sophistication from that, not the detailed knowledge from it.

c. **Are you exempt from the TSI?**

Being exempt does NOT mean that you have met the prerequisite requirement for this course. It merely means that you have done something (high SAT scores, college courses prior to 1989, etc.) that indicates you are mature enough to understand the importance of prerequisites without having the TSI rule to restrict you. The prerequisite for MATH 1342 is making an appropriately high score on either the THEA or the COMPASS.

d. **Have you looked over the Math Department's Prerequisite Review Sheet and learned to do all the problems on it?**

This sheet has been prepared by MATH 1342 teachers to indicate the types of problems many students need to review before beginning the course.