

There is some change in the air at WVU Morgantown regarding placement, college algebra, and calculus. Here is the executive version:

Placement: We are going to the MAA online test to be administered during freshman orientation to all students (we will use the MAA basic algebra and calc readiness tests, the short versions). We won't use ACT/SAT scores as a default placement standard anymore. We plan to start enforcing a C or better in prerequisite courses before a student can continue to the next course.

College Algebra: We will schedule College Algebra Math 126 as Math 126A, 126B, and 126C so that we can implement differentiated instruction and enforce different placement criteria. 126A is 5 Day a week, smaller sections, hand graded tests, with a lower test score for entrance. 126B is 2 days lecture, one day lab per week, in large sections, with a third lecture day per week to spend going over material in more depth, mid level scores. 126C is 2 days lecture, one day lab per week in large sections. We won't schedule Math 124 anymore. I would like to process a course drop form for Math 124 and not use that course number anymore, if that doesn't mess any of you up.

Calculus: Math 155 will still be offered, but for students who based on placement would be more likely to succeed with review, we will offer a two semester sequence, Math 153-154, to replace 155. 153 and 154 are each 4 credit hour courses. We will phase out offering the precalculus course Math 129, but we will keep the course number on the books to use for special purposes such as summer programs and for transfer credit.