

PRECALCULUS STUDENT REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS

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Precalculus requires students to have mastered the fundamental skills of Algebra 2.

In addition to the concepts of Algebra 2, computations, problem solving, & calculations are the other skills required to study precalculus.

Precalculus requires students to develop personal commitments and a strong work ethic.

Simply attending classes and behaving acceptably is not adequate. Students must participate in discussions and activities. They must develop an active interest in the concepts they are learning, engage these concepts and actively seek answers to questions, (i.e. math lab). Students must commit to doing their best work, not the least work for a high grade.

Precalculus requires students to work independently.

Students often have to work on assignments without detailed instruction. Students are responsible for asking questions when they do not fully understand the material. Students must be prepared to spend a greater amount of time on homework. In addition, they must seek extra help, if needed, and make appointments with the teacher to obtain added support.

Precalculus requires students to value learning.

While grades are important and taken seriously, learning must be the first priority of students. Students must be able to learn from mistakes. The thinking skills students practice are abstract and often have ambiguous answers. Students must learn to cope with ambiguity and to think through complex questions.

Precalculus requires students to maintain a positive attitude.

Students cannot resist a task because it is new or difficult. When work is “easy,” students may be practicing skills rather than learning new ones. Discomfort with new tasks is normal and students must be willing to take risks. They must do their best on work they may not like and strive to see the purpose of the work they are doing.

Precalculus requires students to take an interest in the subject.

Students must be willing to analyze their work in detail and participate in lengthy discussions and projects. Each level of math class is preparation for the next. Students must not limit themselves to the assigned material, but continually strive to learn more by engaging in outside study of mathematics.

Precalculus is necessary to be successful in College Entrance Exams.

Precalculus is not considered an AP type class but college placement tests focus on the math concepts taught in precalculus so there is an emphasis placed on those mathematical concepts students will see on college placement tests. This emphasis also helps students with SAT, ACT, PSAT, College placement exams. The montemath.com website has a page dedicated to these types of exams where downloadable practice exams are available as well as valuable links and tutorials can be found also.