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Alternative Format: New.Student.Orientation@Dartmouth.edu

More information: http://dartgo.org/access
Getting Started in Math, Engineering, and the Sciences

Some beginning advice...
Presenter: Prof. Jon Kull

• Department Representatives
  • Mathematics – Prof. Erik van Erp
  • Biology – Prof. Tom Jack
  • Chemistry – Prof. Dean Wilcox
  • Computer Science – Prof. Vasanta Lakshmi Kommineni
  • Earth Sciences – Dr. Justin Stroup (9/1) and Prof. Meredith Kelly (9/5)
  • Engineering – Prof. Doug Van Citters (9/1)
  • Physics/Astronomy – Profs. Jim LaBelle and Kristina Lynch
  • Neuroscience – Profs. Wilder Doucette (Psychiatry), Kyle Smith (PBS), Mark Thornton (PBS) [9/1]; Profs. Matt van der Meer (PBS), Emily Finn (PBS) [9/5]
  • Psychology – Prof. Cathy Cramer
  • Teaching Science Fellows – Prof. Lee Witters
    • Jiaming Ma ’23
    • Joana Lame ’23
    • Andrew Sasser ’23
This Session

This session is designed to give you introductory information about beginning the college-level study of Math and the Sciences at Dartmouth College

Goals:

• To introduce you to the Math and Science Curricula at Dartmouth
• For you to assess high school preparation in Math and Science and to determine what that might mean for starting Math and Science course sequencing at Dartmouth
• For you to understand the best way to begin course work in individual disciplines (departments/majors)
• For you to understand the relationship between courses in different disciplines (departments/majors)
Overall info/advice

• Know where you’re starting (i.e., placements in math, sciences, etc.,) and your strengths

• College courses are not the same as high school (in terms of pace, difficulty, and grade scale)

• Successful students use resources available to them!

• Your current comfort and mastery in math has implications for how you begin study in the sciences
Know where you’re starting

This has implications for:

- How easy or difficult your transition to college-level science coursework will be
- What classes you take your first term
- What classes you take your first year
- Whether you take certain classes in combination
- Later flexibility for other opportunities (Foreign Study, Off term, etc.)
Is this you?

- Placement into MATH 1 (no calculus experience in High School)
- No AP courses in Math or Science
- Concern about Math/Science preparation
- Less than 700 on the SAT I Math Test
Or, is this you?

- Placement into MATH 3 (some calculus experience in High School)
- You took AP Science course in High School but did not get a 5 on the AP (or didn’t take it)
- No “credit-on-entrance” in science courses on placement record
Or, is this you?

- Placement into MATH 8 or higher
- You got a 5 on one or more AP exams: Biology, Physics, Chemistry
- One or more “credit-on-entrance” in science on placement record
- Score of 22-30 on the Biology Placement/Advisory test
- Confidence/a strong background in science
Take a minute and decide

**Little or no math and science background**
- Placement into MATH 1 (no calculus experience in High School)
- No AP courses in Math or Science
- Concern about Math/Science preparation
- Less than 700 on the SAT I Math Test

**Some math and science background**
- Placement into MATH 3 (some calculus experience in High School)
- You took AP Science course in High School but did not get a 5 on the AP (or didn’t take it)
- No advanced placement in science courses on placement record

**A great deal of math and science background**
- Placement into MATH 8 or higher
- You got a 5 on one or more AP exams: Biology, Physics, Chemistry
- One or more “credit-on-entrance” in science on placement record
- Score of 22-30 on the Biology Placement/Advisory Test
- Confidence/a strong background in science
Implications for little or no math and science background

- Avoid doubling up in the Sciences, Math, Physics, or Engineering classes in any term during your first year (there are exceptions to this, e.g. in Engineering sequences; consult with departments and your advisors)
- Two courses with labs in one term is always a heavy workload. Avoid taking two lab courses in the same term during your first year
- You will likely adjust to college level work at a pace that will allow for success in your first year
- You will have less flexibility in your D-Plan (i.e., schedule) particularly later years
- Off-campus programs (LSAs and FSPs) are possible but require careful early planning of your schedule
- You will have room for fewer electives
- If you are Pre-health, you can still complete the Pre-health curriculum before you leave Dartmouth. The norm at Dartmouth and nationwide is to take a year off between college and medical school. This enables you to plan a more flexible schedule for completing the Pre-health curriculum before you leave Dartmouth.
- You should limit your extracurricular activities during the first year (this includes internships and academic opportunities outside the classroom)
Implications for some math and science background

• Be cautious in doubling up Science, Math, or Engineering in the first term
• Avoid having your first lab course be during a term where you are taking two such courses
• Pay careful attention to your schedule as you go forward. You can do Foreign Study, etc., but it requires advance planning
• You should limit your extracurricular activities for the first year
• This allows you to apply to medical school in your final year at Dartmouth
A great deal of math and science background

- You will have more flexibility down the road (But don’t squander this)
- It will be easier to fulfill a second major in addition to your science major (if you so choose)
- You should be able to fulfill the prerequisites for your science major in your first year
- It is probably fine to double up on Math and Science courses in the first term
- You may consider taking two courses with labs in the first term
- You may be taking intermediate level math/sciences courses in your first year
Some general advice
(College is not the same as high school!)

• Course work will go faster than you anticipate (keep up with notes and problems; this will start in the first week).

• Schedule 3 hours of study and prep time out of class for every hour you spend in class (i.e., you will need a minimum of 30 hours a week outside of class to keep up).

• As you adjust to college work, you will need to learn how to study. This takes time.

• Don’t be surprised if your first exam grade is less than 70%. This could very well be a respectable grade (depending on the curve/course etc.).

• Limit extracurricular activities. Especially until you have college academics under your belt.
Successful students use resources.

- Professors’ Office Hours
- Math Department – drop-in tutorials
- Biology and Chemistry – use the Teaching Science Fellows
- Computer science - take advantage of section leaders and TAs in COSC 1 and COSC 10
- Academic Skills Center
  - 1:1 academic coaching, learning strategies online resources, E-Guide to academic success
  - Peer Tutoring Program—group tutoring for most introductory/foundational courses
    Visit dartgo.org/asc for more details
- Form your own study group
- Engineering: Dartmouth Emerging Engineers (DEE). FREE study sessions five nights a week at Thayer to help with pre-requisites. Empathetic TA’s, engineering faculty advising, a community of engineering students. https://engineering.dartmouth.edu/dee/
Teaching Science Fellows

Office: 123 Life Sciences Center
Fall term covering BIO 12 & 19 and CHEM 5 & 11, but available to any science student

Jiaming Ma ’23
Biology

Joana Lame ’23
Biology & Chemistry

Andrew Sasser ’23
Chemistry
FYSEP Liaison

E-mail us for help/advice!
Jiaming.Ma@dartmouth.edu
Joana.Lame@dartmouth.edu
Andrew.Julian.Sasser@dartmouth.edu

Link to our web site learning resources & our appointment calendars
Teaching Science Fellows Website

http://sites.dartmouth.edu/teachingsciencefellows

OR Google: Dartmouth Teaching Sciences Fellows

It’s the first thing that pops up!

Check out our Study Strategies including videos of study tips!
Mathematics

Math is not only a major, but math classes are pre-requisites for STEM majors, so starting at the correct place is critical.

Little or no math and science background

• If you’ve never taken calculus, take MATH 1 this Fall and MATH 3 in the Winter

Some math and science background

• If you’ve taken some calculus but do not place out of MATH 3, take MATH 3 this Fall

A great deal of math and science background

• You are placed into MATH 8 or higher
• Depending on what you think you might want to major in, take more Math in the Fall or Winter
• If you are considering majoring in Math, take a Math class Fall term
Biology

Little or no math and science background

• If placed into MATH 1, take MATH 1 this Fall and MATH 3 in the Winter
• Consider taking BIO 11 in the Fall or Winter

Some math and science background

• If placed into MATH 3, take MATH 3 this Fall
• Take BIO 11 in the Fall or Winter; consider a foundation course (BIO 12–16)
• Consider taking CHEM 5 in the Winter

A great deal of math and science background

• Take BIO 19 in the Fall, or a foundation course (BIO 12–16) in the Fall or Winter; consider taking a second foundation course this year
• Consider taking CHEM 5 (Fall or Winter) and CHEM 6 (Winter or Spring) or CHEM 11
Chemistry

(Note, students with prematriculation credit for CHEM 5 or a passing effort on the Chemistry Placement Test are placed into the one-term general chemistry course, CHEM 11)

**Little or no math and science background**
- If placed into MATH 1, take MATH 1 this Fall and MATH 3 in the Winter
- Take CHEM 5 in the Winter and CHEM 6 in the Spring

**Some math and science background**
- If placed into MATH 3, take MATH 3 this Fall
- Take CHEM 5 in the Winter and CHEM 6 in the Spring
- If you have credit for MATH 3, depending on your chemistry placement, take CHEM 5 in the Fall and CHEM 6 in the Winter, or take CHEM 11 in the Fall or Spring

**A great deal of math and science background**
- Take CHEM 5 in the Fall and CHEM 6 in the Winter, or take CHEM 11 in the Fall or Spring
- If you have credit on entrance for both CHEM 5 and CHEM 6, consider taking organic chemistry (in consultation with the Chemistry Department)

Chem 5 prep site: [https://canvas.dartmouth.edu/courses/53399](https://canvas.dartmouth.edu/courses/53399)
Students wishing to devote one course to the study of Computer Science should take COSC 1 offered in Fall, Winter, and Spring. No previous programming experience is required to take COSC 1 (over 75% of students taking COSC 1 have no computer programming experience). Students wishing to devote two or more courses to the study of Computer Science should begin with COSC 1 and COSC 10. Students wishing to take courses in Digital Arts should start by taking COSC 1 or COSC 2. ENGS 20 may substitute for COSC 1 in any program of study.

**Little or no math and science background**
- If placed into MATH 1, take MATH 1 this Fall and MATH 3 in the Winter

**Some math and science background**
- If placed into MATH 3, take MATH 3 this Fall

**Please note:**
- COSC 1 is a prerequisite for COSC 10
Earth Science

Prerequisites: Any one introductory Earth Science course (EARS 1-9 exclusive of EARS 7); EARS 40; CHEM 5 (or CHEM 11); and any one of the following courses taken at Dartmouth: MATH 3, MATH 8, MATH 9, MATH 11, MATH 12, MATH 13, MATH 14, MATH 23, or MATH 46.

Little or no math and science background

• If placed into MATH 1, take MATH 1 this Fall and MATH 3 in the Winter
• EARS 1 the Fall or Spring

Some math and science background

• If placed into MATH 3, take MATH 3 this Fall
• EARS 1 in Fall or Spring or EARS 18 in the Fall

A great deal of math and science background

• EARS 1 in Fall or Spring or EARS 18 in the Fall
• CHEM 5 in the Winter
Engineering

**Little or no math and science background**
- If placed into MATH 1, take MATH 1 this fall, MATH 3 - winter, MATH 8 - spring.
- First year: develop confidence in mathematics and work with a faculty advisor
- MATH 13, PHYS 13, PHYS 14, and ENGS 20 in the second year, begin engineering core courses during sophomore summer.

**Some math and science background**
- MATH 3 this fall, MATH 8 in the winter.
- PHYS 13 in the winter, PHYS 14 in the spring. MATH 13 or ENGS 20 or ENGS 21 in spring
- Plan to complete math and physics, plus ENGS 20 and 21, by the end of sophomore year, to begin taking engineering core courses during sophomore summer.
- CHEM 5 or CHEM 11 can wait until later.

**A great deal of math and science background**
- Take MATH 8 +13 or 11 in fall/winter, with PHYS 13 +14 in fall/winter or winter/spring.
- Take ENGS 20 or 21 in the Spring, the other during sophomore Fall. Talk to your engineering advisor about planning the second year.
- CHEM 11 can be taken first year, sophomore year, or wait until later

**Biomedical Engineering and/or Pre-Health**
- Follow math guidance above and consult with an engineering advisor
- Take CHEM 5 and 6 or CHEM 11 as soon as reasonable
- Begin Biology sequence (11/12) if schedule allows
- Take PHYS 13/14 in sophomore year
Physics and Astronomy

**Little or no math and science background**
- If placed into MATH 1, take MATH 1 this Fall and MATH 3 in the Winter (start with PHYS 13 Sophomore Fall)
  - Note: PHYS 3 & 4 are for non-majors (don’t start here if you want to major)

**Some math and science background**
- If placed into MATH 3, take MATH 3 this Fall, AND take MATH 8 in the Winter
- Take PHYS 13 in the Winter, PHYS 14 in the Spring
- Students placing into MATH 11 or MATH 9 should consider MATH 9 or speak with a faculty member during the Math Open House.

**A great deal of math and science background**
- Take Physics 13, 14, 19 in the first year (or postpone 19 until Sophomore Fall)
  OR
- Take 15/16/40 or 15/14/40 in the first year (the accelerated track)
  - Note: PHYS 15 is offered Fall/Winter, PHYS 16 is offered Winter, and PHYS 14 is offered Winter/Spring; PHYS 40 offered Fall/Spring
  - Note: PHYS 15 requires that your high school physics used calculus and requires taking an on-line placement exam during orientation

Note for Premeds: PHYS 3 is now offered Summer/Fall/Winter and PHYS 4 Winter/Spring
Neuroscience

Prerequisites: PSYC 6 & PSYC 10, plus four courses from the following: MATH 3, 4, 8; ENGS 20; COSC 1, 10, 31; CHEM 5, 6, 11; PHYS 3, 4 (must have at least one CHEM/PHYS course; see PBS website for details)

Little or no math and science background

- If placed into MATH 1, take MATH 1 this Fall and MATH 3 in the Winter
- Take PSYC 6 (Intro to Neuroscience) in Winter or sophomore Fall

Some math and science background

- If placed into MATH 3, take MATH 3 this Fall
- If taking MATH 3 or another STEM course in Fall, take PSYC 6 in Winter or sophomore Fall

A great deal of math and science background

- Take PSYC 6 Fall (if no other STEM courses) or Winter term
Psychology at Dartmouth is a STEM discipline that focuses on an experimental approach to understanding behavior.

- Prerequisites: PSYC 1 and PSYC 10. Please note that AP/IB Statistics credit (as MATH 10 credit-on-entrance) is inadequate preparation as a substitute for PSYC 10. We strongly encourage prospective Psychology majors to take PSYC 10 rather than any other department's statistics course.

- **Calculus is not needed for the Psychology major. Thus, all students, regardless of background, should:**
  - Take PSYC 1 (Intro Psyc) in Fall or Spring of the first year
  - Plan to take PSYC 10 (Statistics) by no later than midway through the sophomore year

- **The department does not give credit for AP/IB Psychology scores, nor do we offer an online placement test.**