

Why Math?

Increase your chances for future success.

Math counts for life

Whenever we operate a computer, follow a recipe, buy a car or consider a college loan, we rely on math skills. We also live in a technologically-rich society, which has drastically increased the need for mathematical thinking and problem solving skills. High school students need to have greater mathematical competence to solve problems creatively and resourcefully in all parts of life.

Math counts for college

Too many students lose interest in math or experience failure or near failure. This is unfortunate for math skills are required for every type of post-high school training and education. In fact, most colleges and universities expect students to have mastered certain math skills before ever enrolling in their first college class. According to the study, *Answers in the Tool Box*, finishing a course beyond the level of Algebra 2 in high school more than doubles the odds that a student who enters postsecondary education will complete a bachelor's degree.

Math counts for careers

Math is the gatekeeper for many good jobs. Will you get in? Whether students dream of a career in architecture, law enforcement, music, technology or science, advanced math skills form a foundation for future opportunities, not to mention income earning potential. A majority of workers who earn more than \$40,000 annually have two or more high school credits at the algebra 2 level or higher, according to the American Diploma Project.

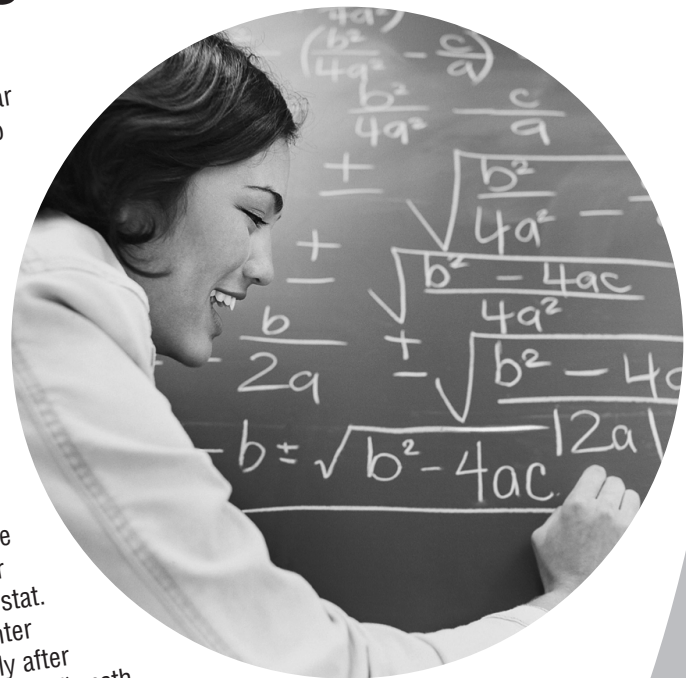
Learn now - or pay later.

Students who enroll in any two-or four-year college are required to take a placement test to determine what level of reading, writing and math courses they are ready for. **Students who don't qualify for college-level courses must enroll in "pre-college" (remedial) classes. Students pay the same amount for pre-college classes - for no credit!**

The aftermath...

Too few students take enough math - or the right math - in high school. While a majority of high school graduates enter college, fewer than 50% leave with a degree in hand according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Here's another stat. ***50%** of high school graduates who enter Washington's two-year colleges directly after high school need to take pre-college (remedial) math before they are ready for credit math courses. Not surprisingly, strong connections exist between successfully completing rigorous high school math courses, such as algebra II and beyond, and future college success. Increase your odds, take math!

* State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, 2004



Add it up...

Imagine arriving at your high school graduation with the math and quantitative skills to succeed in college, the workplace and in life. Here's your first step. You can take immediate action by checking out a new Student - Parent online resource known as **Math Lab**. The Transition Mathematics Project - a joint effort between Washington's K-12 schools, two-year colleges and public four-year universities - has defined a set of college entry expectations of math knowledge and skills and is working to motivate more students to take more math in high school. For more on the NEW College Readiness Standards, please visit the TMP website: www.transitionmathproject.org/

To check out **Math Lab**, visit: www.transitionmathproject.org/math_lab.asp



People have the craziest reasons for not taking math. What are yours?

- It's too hard.....
- I'll never use it.....
- I have all the credit I need.....
- None of my friends are taking it.....
- You've done hard things in the past!
- How do you know?
- Is it about credit or about learning?
- Be a pioneer. Start a trend.

More math = more possibilities

Council of Presidents



No matter the career, math matters.

Math is the gatekeeper for many good jobs. Will you get in?

To find out more, visit the **Math Lab** at:
www.transitionmathproject.org/math_lab.asp

	Algebra 2	Chemistry	College Chemistry	College Calculus	Job-Related Computer and Technology Skills
Technical training	Auto Technician				×
	Computer Programmer	×			×
	Medical Lab Technician	×	×	×	×
2-year degree	Dental Hygienist	×	×		×
	Firefighter	×	×		×
	Web Designer	×	×		×
4-year degree	Accountant	×	×	×	×
	Agricultural Technology & Management	×	×	×	×
	Registered Nurse	×	×		×
	Software Engineer	×	×		×

Q Does everyone need college-level math knowledge and skills?

A More and more careers require advanced and applied math skills. Math is the foundation for science, music, art. Talk to an auto technician, a cosmetologist or a dental assistant and you'll hear first hand how much math is needed to do the job.

Washington state has clear academic standards, which spell out what all students need to know and be able to do by 10th grade (<http://www.k12.wa.us/CurriculumInstruct/default.aspx>). The 10th grade standards tested on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) are basic computation, beginning algebra and problem solving. These skills are the floor, not the ceiling, for achievement. In order to ensure that their diplomas are meaningful, all students in the classes of 2008 and beyond must pass the 10th-grade WASL before they graduate. But 10th-grade skills are not enough for success in demanding jobs or college. High school students should consider taking math or math-based science in their senior year to help ensure the skills necessary for college and workplace readiness.

Do the Math

**Meeting WASL Standards +
 College Entry Math Skills and Knowledge =
 College, Career and Life Success**

Your New Winning Formula