



ACADEMIC ALERT #2004-5

DATE: May, 2004

DECISION: College of Arts and Sciences (CAS)

Department of Mathematics Revised Math Assessment Policy

RATIONALE:

The mathematics assessment policy was revised to enable NLU students to: (1) complete NLU math course work successfully; and (2) acquire the desired quantitative reasoning competencies, as part of the general education core, their major, and/or program requirements.

The revised policy eliminates: (1) the math qualifying exam (not the same test as the Math Assessment) and the need to pass it in order to transfer in math courses completed from other institutions; (2) the requirement that Math Content I & II be completed at the same institution; and (3) individual faculty approval for each student and each course that a student takes at another institution.

APPROVAL: Math Department - March 19, 2004

CONTACTS: Pat Blus, Chair Department of Mathematics; ext 2302

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: **Immediately.** The Revised Math Policy applies to students with transfer courses whose admission to NLU is pending when this alert is issued.

SIGNATURE

Carol R. Melnick, Ph.D.
Vice Provost

REVISED MATH ASSESSMENT POLICY

1. With regard to the Math Assessment test scores and recommendations:
 - All undergraduate students admitted to on-campus programs must take the Math Assessment within the first quarter of being admitted to NLU. (See NLU Undergraduate Catalog page 33.)
 - Incoming freshmen are required to follow placement recommendations for math courses based on test scores on the Mathematics Assessment in order to take any math coursework at NLU.
 - Standard transfer students are required to follow placement recommendations for math courses, based on test scores on the Math Assessment in order to take any math coursework at NLU.
 - Seamless transfer students are advised to follow placement recommendations for math courses, based on test scores on the Math Assessment to assure maximum acquisition of quantitative competency, **but are not required to do so.**
 - All Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) students must take the Math Assessment before enrolling in an undergraduate mathematics course at NLU.
 - Any exceptions to this policy can only be made by the Mathematics Department Chairperson or designee. Exceptions are documented in writing with copies to the student, program advisor, and director of the Center for Academic Development (CAD).

NOTE:

Seamless Transfer Student. A student who follows a program transfer guide, as part of an articulation agreement, completing all of the courses and other requirements listed on that transfer guide. The completed transfer program and/or degree transfers in its entirety.

Standard Transfer Student. A student who completes courses at other institutions and does not follow a program transfer guide. The transfer course work is evaluated on a course by course basis.

2. Developmental courses LAM100A Prealgebra and LAM100B Basic Algebra must be taken at NLU. No course taken at another institution can be transferred in to count as a developmental course.
3. An IAI general education, quantitative literacy, or math course may be transferred in to NLU, as an equivalent math course, provided the course is:
 - Completed as part of an IAI transferable General Education Core Curriculum (GECC); or
 - Completed as part of an IAI transferable Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree; or
 - Completed as part of a seamless transfer agreement and the course is listed on the NLU transfer guide;
 - Determined equivalent to Math Content I and Math Content II.

NOTE: IAI courses are courses which have been reviewed by the IAI math review panel; and are courses from Illinois schools after 1998.

4. **Seamless Transfer Students.** National College of Education (NCE) students who complete equivalent courses to LAM112 Math Content for Teachers I and LAM213 Math Content for Teachers II at another institution will receive transfer credit for those courses provided that:
 - The courses are part of a completed IAI-transferable General Education Core
 - The courses are part of a completed IAI-transferable Associate of Arts/Sciences degree
 - The courses are listed on an NLU program transfer guide
 - Determined equivalent to Math Content I and Math Content II.
5. **Standard Transfer Students.** Students transferring a non IAI reviewed course, (courses which have not been reviewed by the IAI math review panel; courses from Illinois schools prior to 1998; and courses from schools from another state) will need to follow the requirements resulting from the Math Assessment.
 - CAS math faculty will determine course equivalency.
 - The Math Assessment test scores provide evidence of the student's level of knowledge.

6. Students, who wish to enroll in (additional) math courses at NLU, are advised (but not required) to follow the Math Assessment results and recommendations, even if they have transferred approved math courses to NLU. For example, a student completes courses equivalent to LAM112 and LAM213 as part of a seamless transfer agreement and wants to take another math course at NLU. This student performs poorly on the Math Assessment. College of Arts and Sciences math faculty would advise this student to take developmental course work before enrolling in the desired math course. The student needs to be advised that this additional work will enable him/her be more successful in mathematics coursework. This is an advisement recommendation and not a requirement. The student should consult with the major advisor prior to making a mathematics enrollment decision. In this way, the major advisor can provide support for the recommendations from the math assessment.
7. Currently enrolled NLU students who want to take a math course at another institution are advised to:
 - Have the NLU math department chair or designee review the course for NLU course equivalency; or
 - Check with the University Registrar's Office list of pre-approved transfer equivalent courses

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Office of Admissions, Registrar (credential evaluators and degree auditors), Enrollment (enrollment counselors), and faculty advisors need to pay particular attention to the details of this revised math policy and implement it.
2. Students need to be informed of this revised math policy in multiple ways: student email, fact sheets made available at registration, in the Center for Academic Development, and provided by advisors.
3. Pending NCE admission applications must be processed using the revised math policy (i.e., update math transfer courses and math deficiencies; notify students of updated status).
4. Faculty advisors are strongly encouraged to document in writing their advising interactions with students, especially with regard to this revised math policy.