Calculus at Holy Cross
Fall 2015

You are receiving this message because you are enrolled in a Calculus course for the Fall 2015 semester at Holy Cross. I hope this letter will answer some of your questions and help point you in the right direction for any remaining questions.

The first part of this letter pertains to choosing the right math course, and the second part of this letter pertains to the course materials.

Do you need calculus? Which course is right for you?

First of all, we recommend Calculus at Holy Cross if you need it in support of your aspirations in the following fields: pre-health, chemistry, biology, physics, mathematics, computer science, economics, accounting. If you are not interested in pursuing these fields, we have several introductory topics courses in math and computer science that you can take to satisfy your common area requirement (or you can take two science courses and forgo math altogether).

Mathematics, economics, physics, and chemistry majors must complete both Calculus 1 and Calculus 2. Accounting, biology, and computer science majors must complete Calculus 1. Pre-health students must complete Calculus 1 and a course in Statistics. Math 220 is the appropriate statistics course in the Mathematics and Computer Science Department for pre-health students. Other departments, such as Biology, Economics and Accounting, Psychology, and Sociology and Anthropology, also offer statistics courses that are appropriate for pre-health students. Students in these majors should take the statistics course in their department rather than Math 220. Therefore we recommend waiting until you have decided on a major to take statistics.

During open enrollment, you can swap into other sections if you want to build a different schedule. We will be adding more seats to several sections of Calculus courses, so keep checking on STAR. If you still don’t have a seat in a course by August 24, email me for assistance at slevando@holycross.edu.

If you took Calculus in high school, we urge you to avoid the temptation to repeat it at the College. We realize you might be a little anxious about coming to college and about your workload, but please do not repeat a course you have already succeeded in, especially if you have earned an AP credit. Here is why: when you are a junior or senior at Holy Cross, you may want to take an upper-level course elective but may find you don’t have room in your schedule anymore because you used up a slot early on to repeat calculus.

If you earned an AP Calculus score of 4 or 5 on the AB exam, you have earned credit for Calculus 1 and you can start in Calculus 2 if you need both courses. You can switch later if it turns out to be too advanced for you, but start in Calculus 2.

The biggest point of confusion seems to be between Math 133 and Math 135. Most students, even those who have not had calculus before, should take Math 135. Math 133 is designed for students who need more support as they transition to college-level mathematics. Please consult with me if you think you want to take Math 133, since enrollment in it is by permission only.

For more details about choosing the right calculus course, as well as for information about
other mathematics and computer science courses and major and minor programs, please visit the Mathematics and Computer Science Department’s website:


If you would like additional information, there will be an informational meeting about the majors in mathematics and computer science on Monday, August 31 at 8 AM in Swords 307/312 (for mathematics) and Swords 219 (for computer science).

After reading the information in the link above, you may still have some questions. If so, there are many places you can turn. You may consult your Class Dean or faculty advisor. If you are an incoming first-year student, you may not know who has been assigned to be your faculty advisor yet. This information will be sent to you soon and you will be meeting with this professor when you first arrive on campus this fall. You can also contact me, Professor Steve Levandosky. I am the chair of the Department and will be managing the enrollments in math courses this year. You can reach me at slevando@holycross.edu. My office is Swords Hall, Room 336.

**Calculus Course Materials.**

The required textbook for all sections of Math 133, Math 134, Math 135 and Math 136 this academic year will be *Calculus: Early Transcendentals*, Third Edition, by Jon Rogawski and Colin Adams. The textbook is available at the Holy Cross Bookstore and is bundled with an access code for Launch Pad, the online homework system that will be required for all sections of calculus. The cost at the bookstore, for the textbook and Launch Pad combined, will be $95. Since the textbook is loose leaf, you will also need to purchase a binder for it. Binders will also be available at the bookstore.

The extent of calculator use in the classroom depends on the philosophy of your instructor. There is no need to purchase a fancy calculator for calculus. During exams, many professors permit scientific calculators (such as TI-30XA) but not graphing calculators (such as the TI-83). If you have a scientific calculator, professors will probably allow you to use it during exams. These calculators are not very expensive, and are available for purchase at the Holy Cross Bookstore.

Sincerely,

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