

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Office of the Chancellor  
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Date: January 6, 1992

To: Presidents

From: Herbert L. Carter   
Executive Vice Chancellor

Subject: Determination of Competence in Entry Level Mathematics, Executive Order No. 582

I am transmitting to you five copies of Executive Order 582 which establishes revised procedures for the development and implementation of entry level mathematics competency programs. The Executive Order, which is *effective beginning May 9, 1992*, provides significant changes in the procedures leading to certification of entry level competence in mathematics.

The Executive Order is effective on the same day as the first systemwide administration of the revised CSU Entry Level Mathematics (ELM) examination (May 9, 1992). Because the revised examination tests the full three years of required college preparatory mathematics, new scoring guidelines have been established.

The score denoting competence in entry level mathematics sufficient to undertake the first baccalaureate mathematics course has been identified by the ELM Development Committee as a *raw score of 39*. This score will be under continuous review by the committee to ensure that it remains an appropriate measure of competence. The official "scaled" competency score will be calculated after the first test administration.

Scores on other tests determined to be equivalent to ELM competence and providing ELM exemption are listed on Addendum A to the Executive Order.

The President has the responsibility for implementing this Executive Order and for maintaining the *campus repository and index of all Executive Orders*.

Please address any questions regarding this Executive Order to the Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Educational Support.

HLC/pb  
Attachment

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**Distribution:** Vice Presidents, Academic Affairs  
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**THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Office of the Chancellor  
400 Golden Shore  
Long Beach, California 90802-4275**

**Executive Order No.:** 582

**Title:** Determination of Competence in Entry Level Mathematics

**Effective Date:** May 9, 1992

**Supersedes:** Executive Order No. 498

This Executive Order is issued pursuant to Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Sections 40405.1-40405.4, specifically Sections 40405.1 and 40405.4, and Sections 1 and 2 of Chapter III of the Standing Orders of the Board of Trustees of The California State University.

This Executive Order supersedes Executive Order 498, pertaining to mathematics competence to be demonstrated by entering college students. This Executive Order is effective for undergraduate students entering under the 1983-84 or later campus catalog or bulletin.

**I. Policy Development**

The Advisory Committee on Entry Level Mathematics, appointed by the chancellor from among the CSU faculty and administration, shall have primary responsibility for policy development and recommendation regarding entry level mathematics skills testing and instruction.

**II. Entry Level Competence**

A. Each entering CSU undergraduate student shall be required to take the CSU Entry Level Mathematics (ELM) examination for placement in appropriate coursework, except those who qualify for the following exemptions:

—First-time freshmen can qualify for an exemption on the basis of satisfactory performance on examinations determined to be appropriate by the Entry Level Mathematics (ELM) Development Committee. These examinations and the required minimum scores are described in Addendum A.

—Transfer students can qualify for an exemption either on the basis of satisfactory performance on an examination listed in Addendum A or by completion and transfer to CSU of a college course that satisfies the General Education-Breadth quantitative reasoning requirement, provided such course was completed with a grade of "C" or better.

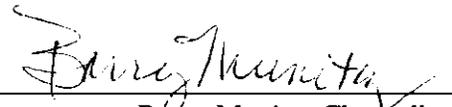
B. The CSU Entry Level Mathematics Development Committee shall review the ELM examination at least annually and revise it as necessary. The committee shall determine the "passing" score denoting entry level mathematics competency on the ELM examination which shall be applicable systemwide. The committee shall be appointed by the chancellor.

- C. Satisfying the ELM requirement shall be defined as any one of the following:
1. Receiving exemption from the ELM examination,
  2. Passing the ELM examination, or
  3. Taking the ELM examination and, in the event of not passing it, demonstrating competence in intermediate algebra by passing campus-approved mathematics courses and/or by retaking and passing the ELM examination.

A non-exempt student shall be required to take the ELM examination before enrollment in any quantitative reasoning course, including remedial courses. Each student subject to the ELM requirement shall be encouraged to satisfy it as soon as possible after being admitted. Campuses shall require students who must take the ELM examination to do so before the end of the first semester or the first two quarters of enrollment. Campuses may grant one-term extensions of the deadline for taking the ELM examination, when students can demonstrate that circumstances beyond their control necessitate such extension.

Each campus may require at local option that a student pass the ELM examination through earning the competency score set by the ELM Development Committee prior to entry into a course which satisfies the General Education-Breadth requirement in quantitative reasoning. Campuses may also establish time limits for the applicability of ELM scores and mathematics course grades to eligibility for enrollment in specified coursework as determined locally.

- D. Satisfaction of the ELM requirement shall be prerequisite to enrollment in a course which satisfies the General Education-Breadth requirement in quantitative reasoning. Campuses shall ensure that students who do not demonstrate the requisite competence take appropriate steps to correct deficiencies. Campuses may permit students to retake the ELM examination at local option, particularly after self-study and/or enrollment in self-contained classes, study, or tutoring.
- E. Campuses are free to designate other courses for which satisfaction of the Entry Level Mathematics (ELM) requirement is prerequisite.

  
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Barry Munitz, Chancellor

Date: January 6, 1992