

DMS Changes Grade Requirements for Prerequisites

After careful deliberation, the Department of Mathematical Sciences has adjusted its requirements when using a math course as a prerequisite for another math course. Two years ago, the department adopted a policy whereby all MAT courses that have another MAT course as a prerequisite require students to have earned a grade of C or better in that prerequisite course. This month, the department decided to alter that requirement to a grade of C- or better.

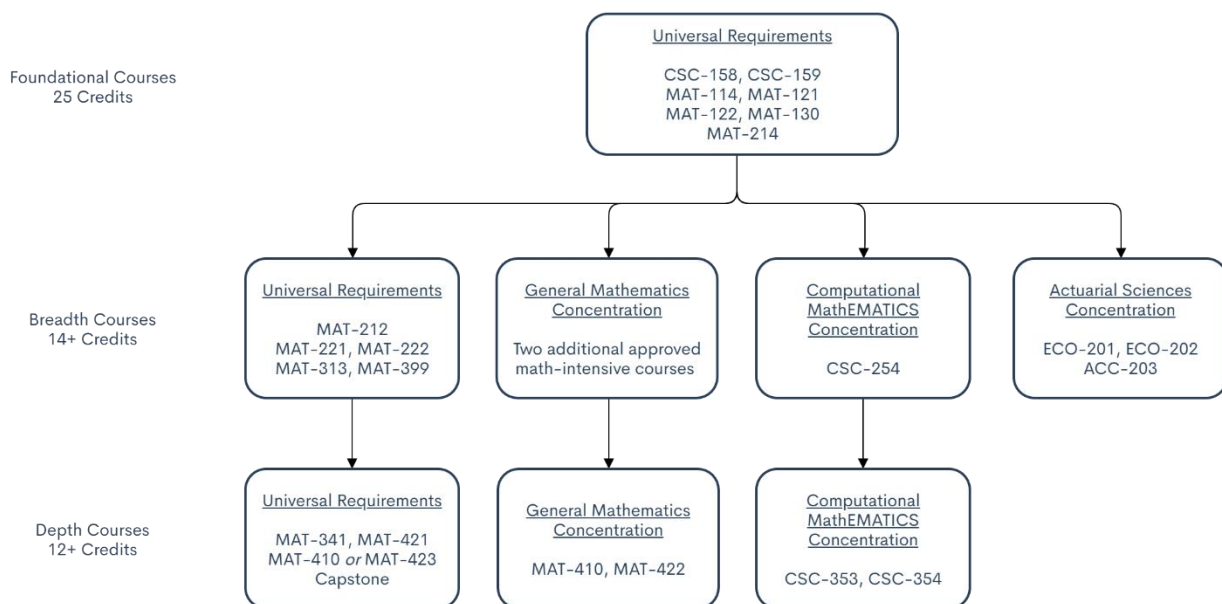
This adjustment comes after careful analysis of student performance across several of our courses following the implementation of our 2018/2019 Intervention Plan. The Intervention plan improved course standardization and rigor for the departments lowest-level courses, resulting in increased student success for several of those courses. However, achieving these results required the department to increase the credit load of some of its courses. These changes prompted the department to reconsider its prerequisite requirements.

The requirement of a minimum grade in prerequisite courses ensures that students obtain a sufficient mastery of introductory material before moving on to advanced topics. This is particularly important in Mathematics due to the heavy extent to which the field builds on itself. When last considered, the department felt that a grade of C was required to demonstrate sufficient mastery of prerequisite materials. However, due to the increases in both course rigor and student success that accompanied our Intervention Plan, along with the additional time commitment for several of our courses, the department is now confident that students who earn a C- in their prerequisite course can also find success in their next math course.

Our department is constantly seeking to improve the quality and rigor of the education we provide to our students. We provide several important foundational courses for all Lincoln students, both as a part of the liberal arts education through our Math for Liberal Arts Majors course, and as part of the foundation required for several other disciplines through our College Algebra, Pre-Calculus, and various Calculus level courses. We believe that this adjustment to our prerequisite grade requirement will improve student retention without sacrificing the high standards and rigor that form the foundation of a strong liberal arts education here at Lincoln University.

DMS Improves Curriculum Coherence

Following the directive set by President Allen, the Department of Mathematical Sciences has revised its course numbering and program requirements to improve its curriculum coherence. Course numbering changes will reduce confusion about the level of material covered in our MAT courses, while the changes to our program requirements ensure that each of our concentrations provides a strong core of mathematics proficiency while also requiring the same commitment of credit hours. The change also brings additional course offerings and increase flexibility at the highest level to better serve our students' needs. Below is a graphical layout of this organization.



The Department of Mathematical Sciences is committed to delivering a strong, rigorous education to all of our students. We hope that these adjustments will better prepare them for the competitive employment and advanced studies opportunities that await them after their successful program completion.