**Two Math Pathways**

**How to Choose the Right One**

**The Math Literacy Pathway** (New Courses: Math 87-88)

* This shortened pathway leads to Math 107, Math 146, Math 208 or Phil 120.
  + Math 107 and Math 146 ARE NOT PREREQUISITES for any math courses.
  + Students intending to **transfer to a different institution** should complete Math 107, Math 146, or Phil 120 at SFCC to ensure the smoothest transfer possible.
* Students in the **Math Literacy** pathway are more likely to pass their math courses than those students in the Algebra Intensive pathway, but their academic/career options will be more limited.
* This pathway is appropriate for those students who don’t need as much algebra and instead need the mathematical literacy skills that are useful in their college courses, future careers, and lives.
* This pathway can also be used by students in the following career/technical programs at SFCC:
* **Occupational Therapist Assistant Program:** Math 88
* **Physical Therapist Assistant Program:** Math 88
* **Audio Engineering:** Math 87 or Math 88
* **Information Technology :** Math 88
* **Library and Information Services:** Math 87 or Math 88

**The Algebra Intensive Pathway** (Existing Courses: Math 93-94-98)

* This pathway leads to all entry-level college math courses.
* Students in the **Algebra Intensive** pathway have more career and educational options available to them upon completion of the algebra sequence, but are less likely to pass their math courses than students in the Math Lit pathway.
* This pathway is appropriate for those students who know they need algebra courses, or think they might at some later time.
* These students include those pursuing a **Science** or **Business** degree.

***(over)***

**Why can’t a student wait to choose a pathway until after taking the placement test?**

Each pathway focuses upon different aspects of the mathematical content. Therefore students will be placed into the two pathways using two different series of placement tests. As a result, students will need to choose a pathway before beginning the placement testing process.

*\*If a student is uncertain as to which test to take, they will be placed using the Algebra Intensive placement tests.*

**What if a student needs to change pathways?**

There is always a way to switch from one pathway to another but it may come at the expense of taking one or two additional math courses. Therefore, it’s important to choose as carefully as possible now. Students who do choose to change pathways after beginning their coursework will want to work closely with an academic consultant to make the transition as smooth as possible.

**What if a student has a placement from an old test or a different institution?**

Any student who has a placement not determined by the new tests should be advised to retest to assure they can place as high as possible in the most appropriate pathway.