

Math Springboard Program Overview

Springboard is a summer mathematics bridge program that offers you an opportunity to review mathematical concepts you might be rusty on or fill in some gaps in mathematical knowledge that you may have missed so that you can move forward with the mathematics and/or science classes in your degree pathway, sooner. It is not a college class! It moves much faster than a normal math class: it only provides an opportunity to review mathematical material, but not much time to learn new mathematical ideas. You will not get a letter grade, and it does not go on your transcript as a course.

But it is similar to a class in many ways, as it does provide some instruction, there are deadlines for assignments, and there will be an assessment at the end. If you are able to demonstrate mathematical proficiency in Intermediate Algebra during the Springboard program, then you will switch your fall semester enrollment from Math 10 or Math 20 to a mathematics or chemistry class required by your degree program.

The 2 phases of Math Springboard:

Online Phase (July 17 – August 21): The online phase uses an online homework system called Knewton, and you have a group of assignments due each Friday. You must complete the assignments by their due dates and send a weekly progress report on Sunday. In addition, you will be assigned to a collaboration group with other Springboard participants and a tutor. This group will allow you to get to know some of the other UWEC students before coming to campus, and give you an opportunity to ask questions about the math work you are doing online. If you complete all of your assignments during the first phase, you will be invited to participate in the second phase on campus.

On-campus Phase (August 29 – September 2): If you complete the online phase, you will get an early move-in date (Tuesday, August 29) for your residential hall. This gives you time to work with a math professor and tutors to review material that you worked on during the online phase. Then on Saturday, September 2, you will take an exam. If you pass the exam, you will swap the course you enrolled in for the fall (Math 10 or Math 20) with another required mathematics or chemistry course (for which Math 20 was a pre-requisite). If you do not pass the exam, no big deal! Simply stay enrolled in the math course you already enrolled in for the fall semester. This will allow you to take time to learn the mathematical concepts more deeply.

Frequently Asked Questions

Math Springboard Enrollment + Registration + Costs

How do I enroll in Math Springboard?

To enroll in the program, return the completed application and \$200 payment to the UW-Eau Claire Mathematics Department. Materials can be mailed or dropped off in the Math Department no later than July 14. Checks can be made payable to UW-Eau Claire with a notation for Math Springboard. If you have an economic hardship or inability to pay, see fee waiver details on the application.

Mailing Address: UW-Eau Claire Mathematics Department | 105 Garfield Ave. | Eau Claire, WI | 54702

Drop off in Math Department Office: UW-Eau Claire | Hibbard Hall | Room 508

What is the deadline for registering for Math Springboard?

The deadline to register is Friday, July 14, *although space is limited so consider enrolling as soon as you decide the program is right for you*. If the program reaches capacity before your application and payment is received, we will notify you. At that time we can return the check via US Mail or shred the check.

How does the \$200 fee compare to the cost of taking Math 10 or Math 20?

An in-state student would pay over \$1400 in tuition to take a four-credit class during any semester.

Does the \$200 fee cover the cost of a text book?

The fee covers the cost of the Knewton Alta program that offers both instructional resources and mastery-based problem sets online.

Is there any help available to cover the cost of the program?

Yes, the fee will be waived for students with an EFC (expected family contribution) under \$7,000. By requesting a fee waiver, you give permission for Financial Aid to verify your EFC. If you do not know what your EFC is, you can locate it in your MyBlugold CampS Student Center or call the Blugold Central at 715-836-3000.

How much does this program cost for students who don't live in the residence halls?

The fee is \$100 if you will not be living in a residence hall. Students not living in the residence hall are still required to attend the math class sessions held August 30 – September 1.

Is there an option for a refund?

You may receive a full refund if you notify the Math department in writing (brisbia@uwec.edu) prior to July 14. If you paid the \$200 fee and decide you are not going to complete the course by August 15, and you notify the Math department in writing (brisbia@uwec.edu), you may receive 50% refund of whatever fee was paid.

What happens if I don't enroll in Math Springboard?

In the fall, you will take the math class you enrolled in during your summer orientation.

Math Springboard Program Information

Can I work ahead in the online phase?

Yes!! We encourage you to work ahead. Look at your summer schedule, manage your time, and set "future" goals. Maybe your goal will be to:

- have all the Knewton assignments completed by August 14, which is a week early.
- have all assignments that are due on a Friday completed by Wednesday night.
- work ahead because you know you have a family vacation the first week of August, and you'd rather not have to rush to catch up and complete assignments after you get home.
- complete assignments on time, and you plan to make sure you can do this by setting aside at least one hour each day to work on math. If you need to increase this time to keep up, you do.

What happens during the on-campus phase of the program?

Math Springboard participants will be divided into two groups. Group A will follow a schedule that includes morning mathematics review with optional afternoon activities, and Group B will follow a similar schedule but with morning and afternoon class/activities switched. Math Springboard participants are required to attend class and strongly encouraged to participate in additional activities. If you have questions about this week, please contact Faith Pawelski (PAWELSFA@uwec.edu).

***Note:** You do not need to choose a move in time in your Housing Portal. We will let Housing know that you are moving in early.*

What happens if I get behind in the online part?

If you do not complete the assignments for a particular week by the deadline on Friday, work on them over the weekend and get them done by Sunday night. Every Sunday you will need to turn in a weekly communication report about your progress. We will check each Monday to make sure you completed the assignments that were due the previous Friday and read your communication report. If you fall behind, we will not drop you from the program right away, but if you do not catch up and keep up, you will be dropped. Remember, all assignments from the online phase must be completed in order to be invited to the on-campus phase, which is when you will have the opportunity to test out of Math 10 or 20.

Springboard requires lots of work. It is not always possible to know in advance if you can juggle this with a summer job, a family vacation, etc. Sometimes it is just not possible to keep up. That's OK! You will just stay enrolled in the Math course (Math 10 or Math 20) that you were enrolled in during summer orientation - nothing is lost. You will move in during the regular campus move-in dates (not early with Springboard), and we will look forward to having you in class in the fall!

What happens if I don't pass the Math Springboard exam on September 2?

A student who does not pass the Math Springboard exam will remain enrolled in their previously scheduled class and take that during fall semester.

What are two things that mess up Math Springboard students?

1. Not checking their UWEC email!! Your UWEC email is where all of the information, news, announcements, reminders, and anything related to college will be. So, make sure you check it, have it on your phone or other smart device, or at least have it forwarded to an email you do check.
2. Allowing other things to take up the time needed for Math Springboard. If you do not reserve the time, it is easy to fall behind. It is not a big deal if you do not complete Math Springboard, but if you do wish to participate and have a chance at receiving Math 20 credit through the program before the Fall 2023 semester, then you must prioritize it in your schedule!

Getting Ready for the Fall Semester

Will my dorm room for Springboard be the same one I have all year?

This is a question everybody has. The answer is YES. When you move in with Springboard, the room you move into will be the one you keep for the rest of the year.

If I plan to participate in Math Springboard, what math class should I enroll in for the fall semester when I go to summer orientation?

Students should register for the course they have been placed into. During summer orientation, advisors will help with this. Students who are hoping to get into a non- math class that requires Math 20 as a prerequisite (such as Chemistry 103 or Economics 103) will not be able to register for that class yet and should build their schedules without that class. If a student is successful on the Math Springboard exam, the student will receive guidance about how to change their schedule. Spots are reserved for Math Springboard participants in the appropriate math classes and/or chemistry or economics classes based on majors.

If I pass the Math Springboard exam, how will I know which class I should change into?

In late July and early August, the mathematics department will work with your advisor to figure out which math or chemistry class is needed for your major. For example, if you are a Business major, you will need Math 109. If you are a Nursing major, then you need Chem 105-6. If you are a Psychology major, you will need Math 246, etc. After we determine which class you need, we will go over your Fall class schedule, look at the times when you do not have other classes scheduled, and then reserve a seat for you in a section of the math/chem class that fits your schedule. If you receive a passing score on the Springboard exam, then we will help you swap Math 10 or Math 20 with this reserved seat.

Do I really have to take Math or Chem in the Fall if I pass Math Springboard exam?

Yes. By participating in the Springboard program, *you commit to taking the Math or Chem class that we have matched you with during the Fall 2023 semester.* You must at least stay enrolled in this class for the first two weeks of the Fall semester. At that time, we will check to see that you are enrolled, and then give you credit-by-exam for Math 20. If you do not follow up with enrollment in the Math or Chem class in the Fall, then you will not get credit for Math 20, and you will have to take the full course that you placed into during a future semester.

I still have questions about the Springboard program, who should I contact?

We welcome your questions and are happy to chat. If you have questions prior to or at your summer Orientation, please contact Dr. Abra Brisbin, Math Chair at brisbia@uwec.edu or 715-836-3778.