

CHALLENGE EXAM PROCESS

The Challenge Exam process is not intended to be a way for students to skip required courses; it is meant to be a tool to challenge the level of initial placement. If successful, these challenges are departmental clearances of prerequisite classes only (they are not for credit and will not appear on your transcript).

- Students that have received a placement in math that they feel is lower than their abilities can take a Challenge Exam to attempt to clear the prerequisite for the higher-level course.
- Students who have prior knowledge in chemistry can take an exam to challenge the Chem 152 prerequisite before taking Chem 200 by enrolling in Chem 20, which is designed to help students review material before taking Chem 200. Please contact Dr. Amanda Fusco-Hernandez at afusco@sdccd.edu for more information.
- Challenge Exams in some of the foreign language classes are available.

1) What classes can I challenge? What tests are available?

The list of available exams are available on the reverse side of this FAQ sheet.

2) How do I know which class to challenge and which exam to take?

Students should discuss the appropriate course to challenge with a counselor, Department Chair, or by reviewing their milestones and course sequence.

3) How can I prepare for the Math exam?

- Math - There are study guides for the math challenges [here](https://www.sdmesa.edu/academics/v2/programs/mathematics/challenge-tests.shtml):
<https://www.sdmesa.edu/academics/v2/programs/mathematics/challenge-tests.shtml>

If you feel like you need a refresher prior to taking a class or challenge, the Math 15 series are six week, one-unit online classes. If you take the optional exam at the end of the course, passing that exam is equivalent to passing the challenge exam and the class will be cleared as a prerequisite.

4) How do I start the Petition to Challenge Process?

Please contact Lauren Beltran at lbeltran001@sdccd.edu in the Admissions Department in I4-102, to start the Petition to Challenge process and to learn about it. You must petition up until two weeks before start of the semester. **During the first week of classes, exams are available through the Department Chair by appointment only.*

5) What do I need to bring to the Challenge Exam?

Just your picture ID - all the necessary materials will be provided for you.

6) How much time will I need for the Challenge Exam?

That depends on the exam you take. Please review the time limit for each test on the reverse side of these FAQs.

7) Can I challenge a class that I am currently enrolled in? Can I challenge a class in which I received a D or F?

No, the challenge process is not valid for a course that a student is currently enrolled in or for a course in which a D or F was received.

MESA COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Room I4-102 ♦ Phone: 619-388-2682 ♦ sdmesaadmissions@sdccd.edu

8) What happens after I take the Challenge Exam?

Allow 10 days for your exam to be graded by the Department Chair and then returned to Laura Beltran in the Admissions office. She will then notify you of your results via email.

9) How many times can I take the Challenge Exam?

Each exam can only be taken once.

10) Where do I take the Challenge Exam?

Some exams are proctored in a designated private area in the Student Services I-400 building and others areas throughout Mesa College up until two weeks before the semester begins. After that, exams are available the first week of the semester (by appointment only) by the Department Chairs.

CHALLENGE EXAMS OFFERED

Math Challenge Exams

Please check the Mathematics Department website for [course information](#) and [sample challenge exams](#)

Math 104: Trigonometry

60 minutes

Math 116: College Algebra

60 minutes

Math 121: Calculus

60 minutes

Math 141: PreCalculus

90 minutes

Math 150: Calculus

90 minutes/calculator provided

Chemistry Challenge Exam

Program information: <https://www.sdmesa.edu/academics/v2/programs/chemistry/index.shtml>

Chemistry 152: Introduction to General Chemistry

45 minutes

Language Challenge Exams

Program information: Please check the specific Department website.

Challenge exams are available for the subjects below. They are all writing exams. If you need more information, contact the Admissions Office or the Languages Department Chair, Hannah Padilla Barajas at hpadilla@sdccd.edu.

Chinese

French

German

Italian

Japanese

Russian

Spanish

Tagalog

Vietnamese

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