

# Learning Support Math FAQ (students)

## What is LSM?

LSM stands for Learning Support Math. The LSM courses are MATH 0810 and MATH 0820. Students placed in LSM will register for MATH 0810. Students who complete the minimum requirements, but do not finish all course content, will register for MATH 0820 or MATH0830 the following semester to finish the remaining LSM coursework. Those students that need to finish only one module will sign up for MATH0830; those needing to finish two modules will register for MATH0820 to finish the remaining LSM coursework.

## Why do I have to take LSM?

The purpose of LSM is to prepare students for college-level math courses or other courses with a LSM prerequisite. Students are placed in LSM by COMPASS/ACT scores or based on transfer credits.

## How does LSM differ from DSPM?

LSM focuses on building students' skills so that they can be successful in college-level mathematics and their careers, whereas, DSPM focuses on remediation of skills that students do not remember or did not obtain in high school. The delivery method for LSM is designed for more active learning on the part of the student and more one-on-one interaction between student and instructor. Additionally, LSM is designed so that each student can work at his/her own pace through the material with the potential that the student may complete his/her learning support math requirements in one semester. Although students can work at their own pace, in order to complete the required three modules within a term, they are expected to complete and pass at least 3 to 5 assignments per week.

## Should I register for LSM or DSPM?

Beginning in spring 2011, students will have a choice between DSPM and LSM. DSPM courses will not be offered after summer 2011. For summer 2011, which course you register for depends on where you are in your developmental math studies.

- If you have not completed any DSPM courses, LSM would be a better course for you and you should register for MATH 0810. It is possible for you to complete all course material within one semester.
- If you have completed DSPM 0700, you have a choice of taking DSPM 0800 or MATH 0810.
- If you have completed DSPM 0800 and need to take DSPM 0850, you should complete the DSPM series. See your advisor to determine if you need to take DSPM 0850.

For fall 2011, DSPM classes will no longer be available, so students should register for MATH0810.

## Why should I take LSM?

The course is a technology-driven course relying on math computer software to assist the student in the learning process. This delivery method fosters more active learning on the part of the student and more one-on-one interaction between student and instructor. Additionally, LSM is designed so that each student can work at his/her own pace through the material with the potential that a student may complete his/her learning support math requirements in one semester. Although students can work at their own pace, in order to complete the required three modules within a term, they are expected to complete and pass at least 3 to 5 assignments per week.

## **How does LSM work?**

Students who need developmental math will register for MATH 0810. Throughout the duration of the course, students will work through each section, called modules, one at a time, in order. For each module, students will begin by taking a pre-test. Those scoring 80% or higher have shown mastery in that module and will move directly to the next module. Those scoring less than 80% will begin working to achieve mastery. That is done by completing homework, a critical thinking assignment, a cumulative homework assignment, a practice test, and a post-test, in that order. There are minimum scores students must obtain on each assignment before moving on to the next assignment. Students must obtain 75% or higher on the post-test, to show mastery of the concepts in the module, before moving on to the next module. Each module focuses on different content that is essential for students to be successful in college-level mathematics. Students who complete the minimum requirements, but do not finish all course content, will register for MATH 0820 the following semester to finish the remaining LSM coursework.

## **Does the modular computer-lab format reduce the interaction between students and instructors?**

On the contrary, there is more interaction between students and instructors than ever before. This interaction is more meaningful, more individualized, and more focused. Data shows that students learn better in this format because they are less passive, more actively involved doing math, and receive help based on their individual needs.

## **Will LSM transfer to other schools?**

LSM courses will transfer to all TBR institutions in the same manner that the current DSPM courses do. For schools not in the TBR system, as with any course, the college or university that you are transferring to has the decision of accepting transfer credits. Nashville State has a description of the content contained in each module that other schools can use to determine which course or courses are equivalent to MATH 0810, MATH 0820, and MATH0830.

## **Can I take LSM courses at off campus sites? When will they become available at other campuses?**

In Summer 2011, all NSCC campuses will be offering both DSPM and LSM courses as LSM is phased in and DSPM is phased out.

In Fall 2011, DSPM courses will be completely phased out and all campuses will be offering sections of LSM at their sites.

## **Can I test out of LSM?**

Placement in learning support or college-level math courses is determined by a student's COMPASS or ACT score or by transfer credit. Beginning spring 2011, students may challenge placement once. If a student does not score high enough on the placement exam to test out of LSM, he/she must register for MATH 0810. However, by passing the pre-test in a given module, a student may test out of that module and move immediately to the next module in the LSM sequence.

## **How many credits are LSM courses?**

MATH 0810 is 3 credit hours.

MATH 0820 is 2 credit hours, and

MATH 0830 is 1 credit hour.

## **Where is the Math Lab?**

The Math Lab is located in K-103, where LSM classes will be held. The Math Lab will also have open hours for students to receive extra help from tutors and instructors.

## **Is there a regularly scheduled class time?**

Yes. Classes in the lab will be scheduled like other regularly scheduled classes. Students are required to attend class in the lab for three hours a week at their scheduled class time.

### **Is attendance required?**

Yes. Attendance is taken at the start of each class and may affect your final grade.

### **Is there required course material for these lab classes?**

Yes. The required course materials for this class are listed in the class syllabus. The syllabus is distributed and explained in detail by the class instructor at the beginning of the semester. Additionally, it is available on the class and department websites for review at any time. Students are expected to purchase and arrive to the second class meeting with the required course materials so that they can begin working in the lab.

### **How long does the mylabsplus access code last? Can I use it for more than one term?**

The mylabsplus code works for 2 years - so students should be able to complete the entire Learning Support curriculum after only making the initial purchase. Students' work is stored in mylabsplus so that students can pick up where they left off in their next term of Learning Support Math.

### **Is there an instructor for a student's scheduled class time?**

Yes. Instructors for each section will be present at each scheduled class. Instructors will be available to answer questions and guide students through the material, but students are expected to come to class, ready to work individually at a computer station.

### **Where can I go for extra help outside of class?**

The Math Lab will be open 5 days a week. There are scheduled open hours each week in the lab and the lab is staffed with tutors who have been trained to help students with MATH 0810, MATH 0820 or MATH 0830 coursework. In addition, your instructor will be available in the lab each week outside of class.

### **Can I move at my own pace?**

You are able to work at your own pace, but are expected to complete and pass at least 3 to 5 assignments per week. Completing these assignments each week is necessary in order to finish the class by the end of the semester. Students may complete more assignments each week and finish the course before the end of the semester.

### **How is my progress monitored?**

Instructors monitor students' progress on a weekly basis and meet with those individuals that are not completing the minimum number of assignments.

### **Can students do homework for this class outside of the lab?**

Absolutely. You are encouraged to work on your homework as much as possible, anytime and anywhere. Your homework is accessible anywhere you have an internet connection. However, you must attend your regularly scheduled class time in the lab each week. If a student needs additional face-time with instructors or tutors, open hours will also be available in the lab. The open-hours schedule will be posted each semester.

### **Can students complete tests outside of class time or outside of the lab?**

Pre-tests and post-tests are password-protected and can only be accessed by instructors in the math lab. Students must show their picture I.D. to an instructor to take a test. If an instructor is not present, they may not take a test. No module tests will be given in the Testing Center.

### **If a student's class is 3 hours each week, do they have to come even if they've finished homework for the week?**

Yes. Attendance is required. There is no “set” homework for each week. Students work at their own pace but are expected to complete and pass a minimum of 3 to 5 assignments per week to finish the class by the end of the semester.

### **What happens if I do not finish LSM in one semester?**

In order to earn credit for the course, students must complete and pass at least three modules. Students who earn credit for MATH 0810 but have not completed all five modules will register for MATH 0820 or MATH 0830 the next term to complete their remaining modules. Those students that need to finish only one module will sign up for MATH0830; those needing to finish two modules will register for MATH0820 to finish the remaining LSM coursework. A student who does not complete and pass at least three modules will receive a failing grade for the course and will have to retake MATH 0810. Students will not have to redo the modules that were successfully completed, but will continue working where they left off.

### **Can a student use his/her personal laptop in the lab?**

No. The lab classroom will have very little desktop space for personal computers and individual laptops may run into problems with secure networks and other software complications while in the math lab. A student should come to their regularly scheduled class time ready to work on classroom computers only.

### **Can a student make up work missed due to illness, etc?**

Attendance is required, taken each day of class at the beginning of class. If a student misses class, he/she will be marked absent but they still need to complete work to stay on pace. Students can work outside of class on their own time or come to the math lab during open hours. Open seating in the lab is limited, so students should not miss the regular class schedule, if at all possible. Remember, students may not take tests without an instructor present.

### **What happens if a student successfully finishes LSM course material before the end of the semester?**

To complete all LSM course material, a student needs to finish all five modules. It is possible for a student to complete all LSM coursework in one term and move directly into their required college level math course(s).

Additionally, if a student successfully completes all LSM course material during the first 7 weeks of the semester, they can register for a second 7-week college level course, provided that there are open seats available.

### **Where can I find more information about LSM?**

Information about LSM and MATH 0810, MATH 0820 and MATH 0830 is found on the LSM website. You can find answers to your questions or contact information of those that can answer your questions. The website is [ww2.nsc.edu/lsm](http://ww2.nsc.edu/lsm). You can contact Christina Weston ([Christina.weston@nsc.edu](mailto:Christina.weston@nsc.edu) or 615-353-3495), Michelle Van Wagoner ([Michelle.vanwagoner@nsc.edu](mailto:Michelle.vanwagoner@nsc.edu) or 615-353-3278), Eli Nettles ([Eli.nettles@nsc.edu](mailto:Eli.nettles@nsc.edu) or 615-353-3253), or Dean Jennifer Knapp ([Jennifer.knapp@nsc.edu](mailto:Jennifer.knapp@nsc.edu) or 615-353-3237) if you have additional questions.