



Math Self-Test

Department of Health Science

It is assumed that you have mastered basic arithmetic and mathematical concepts to perform at a satisfactory level in quantitative public health courses. Specific topics you should know include:

1. Mathematical operations involving sums (addition), differences (subtraction), products (multiplication), and ratios (division)
2. Use of algebraic formulas, including checking of answers
3. Fractions and decimals
4. Powers and square roots
5. Proportions, percents, & ratios
6. Negative numbers
7. Word problems
8. Basic properties of exponents and logarithms
9. Basic graphing
10. [Significant digits \(also called significant figures\)](#) and rounding

Students are expected to have these skills at the pre-algebra level. An online quiz consisting of between 20-to 25-question will be used to assess these skills. This quiz is based on University of North Carolina Quantitative Self-Test for Certificate of Core Public Health Competencies and the California State University Entry Level Math Test. This is a time test (25 minutes) that is to be completed *without* a calculator.

You may prepare for this test in several ways. A free review can be found on www.gre.org: click Practice for a GRE test > Prepare for the general test > Math Review. This is a downloadable PDF file with this direct link: <http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/GRE/pdf/GREmathPractice.pdf>. Your emphasis should be on these sections: arithmetic (pp. 6 - 18), algebra (pp. 19 – 35), and data analysis (pp. 51 – 69). You need *not* review sections on geometry or trigonometry.

In addition, many good review books are available, including *Cliffs Math Review for Standardized Tests* by Bobrow, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Algebra* by Kelley, *Algebra for Dummies* by Sterling, *Algebra Demystified: A Self Teaching Guide* by Huettenmueller, *Practical Algebra: A Self Teaching Guide* by Selby, and *Painless Algebra* by Long.

If you achieve a score of 70% or less on the Math Self-Test, remediation is highly required. Remedial math courses are available at community colleges and at most universities. Math remediation at SJSU is summarized at this website: www.math.sjsu.edu/~mcclory. If you have questions about the self-test, please contact B.B.Gerstman@sjsu.edu.