

**To:** Incoming MPP and MPAP Students  
**From:** Andrea Hetling, Public Policy Program Director  
**Date:** May 1, 2020  
**Re:** Fall 2020 Methods Placement Examination

This memo will acquaint you with the examination process for Basic Quantitative Methods that will take place this fall.

All MPP and MPAP students must either take Basic Quantitative Methods (34:833:521) or place out of it. Placing out allows you to move directly to more advanced methods courses.

- Two methods courses are required for the **MPAP** degree: 34:633:521 Basic Quantitative Methods (or place out) and 34:833:530 Research Design.
- Three methods courses are required for the **MPP** degree, including 521 (or place out), 34:833:530 (Research Design), and 34:833:525 Applied Multivariate Methods.

If you place-out of Basic, you will be able to choose another methods course from a variety of offerings in both the Policy and Planning Programs. A flow chart showing all of the Bloustein methods courses is available for your course planning. For MPP students, who place out of Basic, you are strongly encouraged to proceed to Applied Multivariate Methods (34:833:525).

If you have not had a course in applied descriptive and inferential statistics before, then you should plan to take Basic Quantitative Methods (34:833:521). If you already know the material, you may place out of this course by examination. This fall, the exam is administered on: Wednesday, September 2, from 4 to 6pm and is tentatively scheduled in Room 112. Students should bring a non-graphing calculator and a pen/pencil they are comfortable with. It is not necessary to sign up for this exam in advance. During the first week of school, you should plan to register for and sit in Basic Quantitative Methods and sit in the course you would take if you pass the placement exam. You will receive the placement grade by the end of the day on Sunday September 6.

Topics on the exam include: measures of central tendency (mean, median, mode) and dispersion (range, variance, standard deviation), histograms and other graphical techniques, normal curve, sampling distributions, parameter estimation, hypothesis testing (one and two sample statistical tests, Chi-square test, Analysis of Variance), measures of association, and simple and multiple regression.

We encourage you to take the placement exam even if you took statistics some time ago. If you previously completed a statistics course, review your notes so that you will be ready to take the placement exam. You might also consider visiting the web site developed at Rice University (<http://onlinestatbook.com/rvls.html>) which offers an excellent review of statistics. You might also find this text helpful as you review: Healey, Joseph F. (2009). *Statistics: A Tool for Social Research*, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth or Tenth Edition. New York: Wadsworth.

You cannot fail this exam because it is used for diagnostic purposes and does not appear on any university transcript. The worst that may happen is that you end up taking Basic Quantitative Methods.