



A Very Concise Guide to SkipPrep

July 18, 2021

TO INTENDED RECIPIENTS ONLY

The objective of this document is to help KFUPM students bypass or skip all or the majority of the Preparatory Year, a program that the University calls *SkipPrep*. KFUPM cares about its students and likes to expedite their academic journey by focusing only on activities that are essential to this journey. Many bright students do not need the Prep Year or need only a part of it, and there is no reason to slow them down or to waste their time in activities that do not maximize their value; hence the introduction of the SkipPrep program.

This document is written in English because it is intended for those students with a good command of the English language. Students who are unable to comprehend this document will not be able to benefit from the SkipPrep, because it requires the students to have excellent English language skills.

To summarize this document in one paragraph, ensure that you take the TOEFL or IELTS exams during the summer vacation, and that you study very hard the textbooks or relevant materials of Math-001 and Math-002, which are the math courses offered during the Prep Year. Details follow.

Let us simulate the student's journey. A student who has not taken the TOEFL or IELTS exams can still do SkipPrep, since every student will be given English placement and promotion test at the beginning of the academic year. However, taking the TOEFL and IELTS exams gives the student vital multiple opportunities and would allow him or her, if they are successful, to bypass this University's English promotion exam, so it is highly recommended.

If you are a student who did not take the TOEFL or IELTS exams and did not pass the English promotion test, then you will take the full Preparatory Year, including all the English courses and all the Math courses: Math-001 and Math-002. However, if you are good in English, you might start the higher modules like English-03 and 04 and therefore take only half of the Prep Year English. This is the lowest form of SkipPrep.

A student who has attained the required thresholds of TOEFL or IELTS (TOEFL-IBT 70 or IELTS 6.0 (with no less than 5.5 for each subscore), or passes the English promotion exam at the beginning of the academic year, will skip all the English language courses in the Prep Year. This is called partial SkipPrep. These courses are quite significant since they are several hours every day, and therefore such a student will be free to take other courses at the Freshman level. KFUPM called this partial SkipPrep because the student has passed only the English portion. However, such a student can take Freshman courses such as English 101, English 102, Arabic and Islamic courses, or in some cases, even Chemistry 101. In general, this would allow the student to skip a large portion of an entire year of their undergraduate education.



After passing the English promotion test, the student will take the Math-001 promotion exam, and if he or she passes that exam, they will skip that course, and will be able to take Math-002 in the first semester. Therefore, in the second semester, they will become full-fledged Freshman students and can take all the Freshmen courses, including Math-101, Physics-101, Information and Computer Science-104, in addition, of course, to English 101, Chemistry 101, and so on.

For those who do not know, the Freshman year is the first year of actual university studies, after the Preparatory Year. The names of the years in the American system are: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior.

It is therefore clear that passing the Math 001 promotion test, which you can do only after you have skipped the English portion, really saves you a lot of time that you can invest later in many things. *So, do not waste your summer on social media or other wasteful activities. Focus on studying for these exams.* The resources for these are available in this document.

Once you have taken the Math-001 promotion exam, some students can also take the Math-002 exam, and therefore skip the entire preparatory year. But because of several logistical issues of student grouping, and so on, this opportunity will not be available to female students this year. However, by skipping the English and Math-001, most female students will have the opportunity to save an entire year of their education.

How do you use this year? Well, you can 1) join the job market early on, ahead of your peers. You can also 2) take a double major; for example, you can take a double major in Chemical Engineering and Bioengineering. This will slow you a little bit, but one year should be enough to complete both majors. Or 3) you can graduate early and take a professional master's degree such as a Master of Artificial Intelligence, Master of Bioengineering, and the like.

The resources that could help you pass the IELTS and TOEFL tests are as follows:

Useful Websites for Preparing for the Placement Test

- 1) **British Council Learn English** – <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/> - A high-quality website with a wide variety of exercises across all four skills.
- 2) **British Council Learn English Teens** – <https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/> - As above, but aimed at a younger audience.
- 3) **Perfect English Grammar** – <https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/> - A comprehensive and well-organized resource for learning and practicing English grammar skills.
- 4) **BBC Six Minute English** – <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/6-minute-english> - A huge archive of videos, podcasts and associated tasks for English learners.



- 5) **Droos Online** – <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEHvaZ336u7TIsUQ2c6SAeQ> - More than 250 helpful videos for English learners produced by an Arabic speaker. Over 3.5 million subscribers.
- 6) **ESL Lab** – <https://www.esl-lab.com/> - Hundreds of English listening tasks.
- 7) **YouGlish** – <https://youglish.com/> - A fantastic app for improving English pronunciation by searching YouTube for examples of native speakers pronouncing the words.
- 8) **Reverso** – <https://context.reverso.net/translation/> - Translate from English to Arabic or Arabic to English. Most importantly, this website lets you see how the words are used in context. Much better than Google Translate!
- 9) **The Academic Word List (AWL)** – <https://www.eapfoundation.com/vocab/academic/awllists/> - A list of more than 500 of the most commonly used academic English words. You will have a big advantage if you know these!

Useful Apps for Preparing for the Placement Test

**Note: Not all of these are free to use.*

- 1) **Busuu** – A vocabulary app with more than 3,000 words and expressions covering a wide range of topics.
- 2) **SpeakingPal English Tutor** – An entertaining and highly interactive app featuring a series of 5-minute lessons. Useful if you don't have anyone to practice speaking with.
- 3) **Memrise** – A great app for expanding your vocabulary.
- 4) **Voxy** – A very popular app which features news and stories on a variety of topics and provides quizzes for practice and comprehension.
- 5) **English Grammar in Use Tests** – An app which allows students to practice English grammar in a series of 'tests' which are more like games.
- 6) **Reverso** – The app version of the Reverso translation and words in context website described above.

Disclaimer: This resource list is provided only as a guide. The KFUPM PEP takes no responsibility for any cultural offence which may be caused by materials contained within these resources.

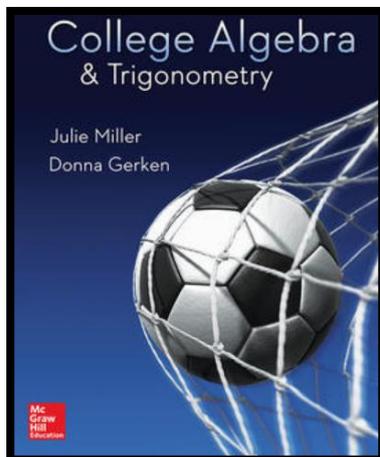
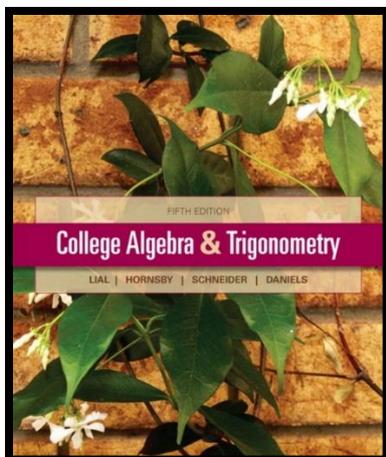
(continues on next page)



The resources that could help you pass the Math-001 and Math-002 courses are as follows:

1) **Textbook:**

- a) College Algebra & Trigonometry, 1st Ed. By Miller, or
- b) College Algebra & Trigonometry, 5th Ed. By Lial



2) **Old exam questions:**

- a) Math 001

<http://www.kfupm.edu.sa/departments/pyp/SitePages/en/ContentDetailsPage.aspx?CUSTOMID=32&LinkID=GetNestedMenus326>

- b) Math 002

<http://www.kfupm.edu.sa/departments/pyp/SitePages/en/ContentDetailsPage.aspx?CUSTOMID=33&LinkID=GetNestedMenus329>

3) **Math vocabulary:**

<http://www.kfupm.edu.sa/departments/pyp/Documents/Math%20Vocabulary.pdf>

4) **Math common mistakes:**

<http://www.kfupm.edu.sa/departments/pyp/Documents/MATH%20COMMON%20MISTAKES.pdf>

5) **Khan Academy:**

To refresh your basic background skills, enroll in the following Khan Academy course:

Instructions:

How to create your Khan Academy account:

- Go to the Khan Academy homepage <https://www.khanacademy.org>
- Click on sign up
- Join Khan Academy as a learner
- Enter your date of birth
- Sign up with Email
- Write your first and last names



جامعة الملك فهد للبترول والمعادن
King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals

- Create a password (at least 8 characters long and should contain a mixture of letters, numbers, and other characters)

How to join a class on Khan Academy:

- Go to <https://khanacademy.org/join>
- Enter your class code and press “Add”
- Class Code:
 - a) MATH 001: **REGVU5ND**
 - b) MATH 002: **V22HDGYW**