

## Intermediate Algebra 2 versus Algebra 2 P

Q: What is the difference between Intermediate Algebra and Algebra 2?

- Intermediate Algebra 2 is an Algebra 2 **alternative**, specifically designed for seniors who are not planning to pursue a career in math or science (STEM career).
- It is recognized by the UC system as equal to Algebra 2 in terms of meeting the A-G math requirements.
- Algebra 2 is faster-paced and covers more topics (spending less time on each) than Intermediate Algebra 2.
- Intermediate Algebra 2 focuses on only the essential skills from Algebra 2 and explores them more deeply. It also takes a more project-based and exploratory approach than Algebra 2.
- It is the perfect course for anyone who may have felt like they struggled in math but would like to continue so they are eligible to attend a 4-year university.

Q: Why would my teacher recommend me for Intermediate Algebra 2?

- The math department's ultimate goal is to find the right course for you, where you will be the most successful.
- Are you going to be a senior next year? Intermediate Algebra 2 was designed with you in mind.
- Algebra 2 has become an unintentional obstacle for a lot of seniors trying to attend a 4-year university, especially seniors who do not have a strong desire to pursue a STEM pathway.
- The point of Algebra 2 is to prepare students for Pre-Calculus, and the point of Pre-Calculus is to prepare students for Calculus. The only reason to take the Algebra 2 route is if you plan to pursue a college major that will require Calculus, like a math or science degree. So, for example, if you plan to major in Art, Music, Humanities, English, Sociology/Psychology, Political Science, Environmental Relations, Nursing, Health/Dietetics/Clinical Nutrition, Accounting, Public Relations, Communications, International Relations, Public Health, Marketing or many, many other non-math- or science-based majors, chances are you are not going to need Calculus. Of course, you can always change your mind and pursue Calculus in college.
- Colleges will prefer a transcript that shows you succeeding in a course over a transcript that shows you struggling in or possibly even failing a course. Intermediate Algebra 2 will offers students who have struggled with math a chance to show how successful they can be.

If you have further questions about your math course for next year, please see your math teacher, the math department chair, or your counselor.