

Mathematics pretest may partially predict students' physics course performance*

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Preliminary results from two different universities suggest that introductory college physics students' scores on a pre-instruction diagnostic test of pre-college mathematics topics are partially predictive of students' final physics course grades. The correlation between mathematics scores and course grades appears to be stronger than that between physics pretest scores and course grades. The results suggest that high school physics teachers may be able to use a mathematics diagnostic test to assess their students' needs for supplementary mathematics instruction before enrolling in college physics courses.

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