

**Pilot to Offer Intermediate Algebra at the UA and Transfer it from Other Institutions**  
*Approved by Undergraduate Council, 3/9/10; supported by William McCallum (Department Head, Mathematics) and Gail Burd (Vice Provost, Academic Affairs)*

**Approved Motion:**

The UA Department of Mathematics will develop and offer an Intermediate Algebra course—as a preparatory course for College Algebra—beginning in Fall 2010 on a trial basis. The UA will continue accepting Intermediate Algebra courses (e.g., MAT 122 from Pima Community College) by transfer from regionally accredited institutions but as **MATH elective** credit toward a University of Arizona bachelor's degree, effective with courses taken in Summer 2010. The UA course and courses accepted by transfer **will not** count toward the General Education Mathematics requirement or for any other specific degree requirement; Intermediate Algebra courses will merely apply as additional credit toward graduation.

**Justification:**

- Many students admitted to the UA do not place into Math 109 or 112, College Algebra, two courses that meet the Math Moderate-Strand requirement for most majors. Those students must complete Intermediate Algebra at another institution before taking a UA math course. Since Fall 2007, the UA has conducted a pilot project accepting Intermediate Algebra by transfer as general elective credit. While this pilot has been a worthwhile retention effort, it has notable drawbacks.
- Students can take MAT 122, Intermediate Algebra, at Pima College with the consortium agreement for financial aid purposes, but that course does not count towards the 15 UA units needed for many UA scholarships. The result is that those scholarship students take 15 UA units plus 3 Pima math units—a course load that contributes to low grades.
- Although students have appreciated the convenience of taking Pima MATH 122 on the UA campus, this cooperative arrangement has been confusing for students and upsetting for parents. During their UA Orientation, the students must also register at Pima College and must pay separate tuition.
- The UA loses state revenue and/or tuition dollars for students who enroll in Pima MATH 122.
- The NCAA has issued new regulations that will affect some incoming student athletes—those who transfer from community colleges. Transfer students must complete a math course that will transfer as math credit (not general elective credit) toward a bachelor's degree. UA's current Intermediate Algebra transfer pilot does not comply.
- ASU and several UA peer institutions accept Intermediate Algebra as elective credit toward a bachelor's degree.
- Since the UA accepts students who are deficient in math skills, many UA faculty believe that the UA has an obligation to offer a math course that will improve the quantitative skills of those students.
- The Math Department proposes developing an academically rigorous course that will prepare students for UA's College Algebra courses. For the Pilot, 2 – 3 sections of Intermediate Algebra will be offered each term.

**Effective Term:** Intermediate Algebra courses completed in Summer or Fall 2010.

**Duration:** The Pilot will last for 2 years—through Spring 2012—at which time the Math Department will present their assessment, along with a recommendation, to Undergraduate Council on whether offering/transferring Intermediate Algebra should be a permanent curriculum change.