

Qatar University Math-Placer

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With the backing of the Foundation Program management and the Dean of General Studies, the Foundation Program Department of Math (FPDM) has created a standardized placement test.

The creation of a standardized placement test required multiple steps. Firstly, a placement test team developed a table of specifications. Next, the Qatar University Testing Center (QUTC) provided training on how to write high quality test items. The placement test team then wrote approximately 300 items. Many of these items were piloted in diagnostic tests given to students at the beginning of the Spring and Fall of 2017. This enabled FPDM to obtain statistical measurements on each question and its corresponding distractors. The entire test was then piloted and the results were compared with the new version of ACCUPLACER Math. The comparison was favourable.



The placement test team: Photograph courtesy of QUTC

Furthermore, the feedback received from the external reviewers of the test was

“excellent”.

Both QUTC and FPDM visited all colleges to inform them about the math placement test and the feedback resulted in a common agreement that the newly developed math placement test should be implemented. Finally in late April 2019, approval was obtained from Qatar University to use the QU Math-Placer as the main placement tool for the Foundation Program’s mathematics courses. We are pleased to announce that more

than 60 students have already taken the test and that their results are at the expected levels.

Developing a new placement test is a painstaking job. My sincere thanks go to the placement test team as well as to the QUTC. Creating the test has enabled us to reflect on and improve on our assessment practices. Going forward, we will continue to work on generating new reliable items and new test forms.



Mr. Salim Nazar Salim: Photograph courtesy of QUTC