



A Very Concise Guide to SkipPrep

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.

In brief, students with very high English proficiency should ensure that they have taken the IELTS test or TOEFL iBT no more than one year prior to arriving at KFUPM, and that they study very hard using the textbooks or relevant materials of Math-001 and Math-002, which are the math courses offered during the Prep Year. Details follow.

A student who has not taken the TOEFL iBT or IELTS exams can still benefit from SkipPrep, since every student will be given English placement and promotion test at the beginning of the academic year. However, taking the TOEFL iBT or IELTS exams prior to arrival at KFUPM gives the student vital multiple opportunities and would allow him or her, to bypass this University's English promotion exam, so it is highly recommended.

A student may Skip the Preparatory English Program if he/she meets one of the following criteria:

1. Submits IELTS or TOEFL iBT certificates for exams taken within a year's time of arrival at KFUPM. Minimum SkipPrep scores on IELTS and TOEFL iBT are:
 - a. **IELTS:** 6.0+ (with no category less than 5.5)
 - b. **TOEFL iBT:** 70+
2. Passes the English promotion exam at the beginning of the academic year

Students who complete the steps above have completed a 'partial' SkipPrep, as Preparatory English Program courses will be skipped. These courses are quite significant since they are several hours every day. Such students will be free to take other courses at the Freshman level. KFUPM calls this 'partial' SkipPrep because the student has skipped only the English courses. However, students who attain 'partial' SkipPrep 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 students to skip a large portion of an entire year of their undergraduate education.

Those students who don't take the TOEFL iBT or IELTS exams and didn't pass the English promotion test will be streamed into two tracks. Those who placed in a lower English level (ENGL01 or ENGL02) will take courses for the full Preparatory Year. Those placed in a higher English level (ENGL03 or ENGL04) will take the Math-001 promotion exam, and if they successfully pass, will skip Math-001 and will take Math-002 in the first semester. Therefore, in the second semester, those students will become full-fledged Freshman students and can take all freshman courses, including Math-101, Physics-101, Information and Computer Science-104, in addition to English 101, Chemistry 101, and so on.

If a student passes the English promotion exam and the Math 001 promotion exam, then he/she can take the Math 002 promotion exam, hence, if they pass, they will skip the entire Prep-Year and become Freshman students immediately.

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

It is therefore clear that passing the Math-001 promotion test, which students can do only after they have skipped Prep English OR if they are placed in a high English level (ENGL03 or ENGL04), really saves a lot of time that can be invested into courses in the freshman year.

How can full or partial SkipPrep benefit you? 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.

There are things you can do now to prepare for your arrival at KFUPM. ***Do not waste your summer on social media or other wasteful activities.*** Take advantage of the resources below.

The resources that will help you improve your English or pass the IELTS and TOEFL iBT tests are as follows:

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

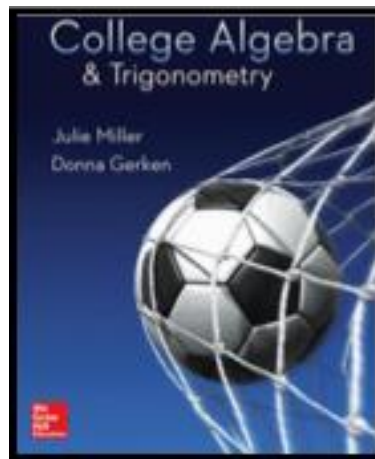
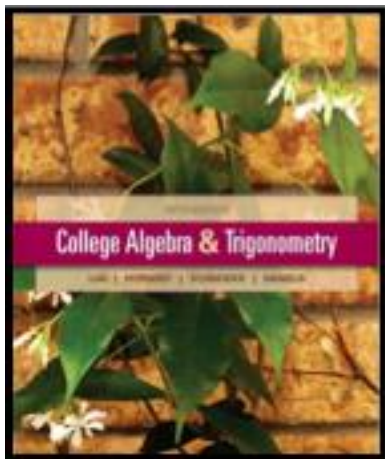
**Note: Not all of these are free to use.*

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. KFUPM takes no responsibility for any cultural offence which may be caused by materials contained within these resources.



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 [Old Exams 001 \(Sectionwise\) \(kfupm.edu.sa\)](http://kfupm.edu.sa/old-exams-001)
 - b. Math 002 [Old Exams 002 \(Sectionwise\) \(kfupm.edu.sa\)](http://kfupm.edu.sa/old-exams-002)
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:
 - a. **Instructions:** How to create your Khan Academy account:
 - b. – Go to the Khan Academy homepage <https://www.khanacademy.org>
 - c. – Click on sign up
 - d. – Join Khan Academy as a learner
 - e. – Enter your date of birth
 - f. – Sign up with Email
 - g. – Write your first and last names
 - h. 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**