I took multivariable calculus in high school and I would like to place out of MAT 201. Is that possible? How does it work?

The placement officer, currently Professor Ana Menezes (amenezes@), handles these requests for the department, and it sometimes happens that she can certify that a student's work done while in high school is equivalent to MAT 201.

Generally, the multivariable calculus courses students take in high school give a good introduction to this challenging and important topic, but they rarely cover topics with the depth and emphasis on problem-solving skills found in MAT 201. The difference is usually quite apparent when we compare the written work, especially the exam questions. Students who want to do independent work in math, physics, engineering, applied mathematics, economics and finance need to be able to work creatively with functions and equations in several variables. They need strong conceptual and technical skills, and these are usually best attained by working on challenging problems.

To apply for placement credit for MAT 201:

- The course should have been offered in person at a university. We do not accept high school or community college courses. Online courses generally cover the material at a more superficial level and the exams tend to be more basic than 201 exams. (Some exceptions might be made for courses that moved online only due to COVID)
- Students must provide enough documentation to allow us to assess the depth of the course. A list of topics and a textbook is not sufficient. The most informative documentation is the student's written graded work or exams. If the placement officer judges the written work samples to be comparable to the work done in 201, then she will arrange to offer a written or oral placement test with the student.
- Sometimes institutions are reluctant to return graded exams to students because they feel that sharing questions from past exams gives an unfair advantage to future students. In that case, it is very difficult for us to approve a course as 201-equivalent. However, there are institutions that are sometimes willing to share their exams with the Math department. In that case, the student should have the institution send the course material to the undergraduate administrator, Ms. Michelle Matul (mmatul@).