

UH Math Contest 2025 – Informational Letter

Revised 1/9/25 with changes in yellow

Dear Teachers, Students, and Parents,

The University of Houston invites students to participate in a High School Mathematics Contest **ONLINE on Saturday, February 8, 2025**. The contest will be hosted by the Department of Mathematics and the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The contest is open to all **middle school and high school students**, and individual exams will be given in each of the following subject areas.

Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	PreCalculus	Calculus
Statistics	Physics	Calculator/Computer Usage	Number Sense	

For more information about the content of each exam, visit our [contest website](#) and view the Exam Content Information page. Exams from prior years can also be found at the contest website.

Students are permitted to take the contest exams from their own homes. Some schools opt to make a day of it and ask teachers and students to come in to their own local school so exams can be taken in the school classrooms.

2025 CONTEST FORMAT FOR SUBJECT EXAMS

Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Precalculus, Calculus, Statistics, Physics, and Calculation

The format for the 2025 exam is the same format used for our 2024 exam with one difference: Instead of viewing the questions and answer choices in one window and entering answers in another window, the questions, answer choices, and answer sheet will be presented on the same screen.

1. For each subject exam, participants will receive one question at a time, with a time limit on each question. Throughout the exam, all students taking that subject exam will be working on the same question at the same time.
2. When participants receive a question: They will see the time limit for that question and a countdown timer bar. Answers must be submitted for that question before the time expires; otherwise the participant will receive no credit for that question. Answers can be changed for that question until the time for that question has expired. Once the time limit for the question has expired, the question will be closed and graded. Further answers cannot be submitted for that question, and participants cannot return to that question. After each question is graded, the participants will see their total number of correct answers up to that point in the exam, and a graph of the number of correct answers of other participants (without listing the names of the other participants).
3. The next question will then appear on the screen and will follow the same pattern described in #2. The student will continue to work through the exam in this manner until the time limit for the last question has expired.
4. Winners will be selected based upon the number of questions answered correctly, and ties will be broken using the total time taken to submit correct answers.

Note that the Number Sense exam and SmackDown competitions will follow the same format as our previous virtual contests, **except that the Number Sense exam will be 20 minutes long instead of 30 minutes long, to better mirror the UIL Number Sense exam.** See our [Exam Content Information](#) page for more details.

CONTEST DAY SCHEDULE

Visit our [contest website](#) to view the schedule. Note that all times are in Central Standard Time.

EXAM ENROLLMENT RULES

- Students are eligible to sign up for at most one of Geometry, Algebra 2, or PreCalculus provided that they sign up for an exam at or above the level of the course they are currently taking in school.
- Students are permitted to take both the Algebra 1 and the Geometry exams **provided that their current-year course in school is Algebra 1 or below.**
- Every student is welcome to sign up for Statistics, Calculus, Physics, and/or Number Sense, schedule permitting.

SMACKDOWN COMPETITION

All students are welcome to compete in The SmackDown competition, which is offered after all the other exams. More information about this exciting elimination competition can be found on our [SmackDown description page](#).

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Online registration opens on **Thursday, 1/9/25 at Noon CST** and closes on Saturday, 2/8/25 at 8:45 a.m. CST. Registration instructions will be posted on our contest website, <https://mathcontest.uh.edu> in early January. The teacher/parent must register first and should then distribute the appropriate codes to their students to register individually for contest exams. **If students are participating from the same school, just ONE teacher from that school should register.** We can then keep track of all the students from that school (based on the students' codes) and that school can accrue [contest points](#) to compete for one of the school trophies.

CALCULATOR POLICY

- **Calculators are NOT PERMITTED on the Number Sense Exam!**
If students are taking the Number Sense contest, it is our expectation that they will honor this expectation and complete the exam without a calculator.
- Calculators are NEEDED for the following exams:
Statistics Exam Calculator/Computer Exam*

*Students taking the Calculator/Computer Exam may use a calculator, a computer, or both.

- **Calculators are PERMITTED - but not required - for the following subject exams:**
(A calculator may save you time - but the problems can be done without a calculator. For the SmackDown elimination competition, most students choose to do the timed problems mentally.)
Algebra 1 Algebra 2 Geometry Precalculus Calculus Physics Smackdown

There is **NO** cost for students or schools. Prizes will be awarded to winning students ([see prizes here](#)). Additional information can be found on our contest website, <https://mathcontest.uh.edu>.

Please share the information in this letter with others that you believe will be interested and urge them to contact us so that they can be included in our later announcements.

We hope you can join us **ONLINE** on February 8!

On behalf of the entire UH contest team,

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