Rationale for prerequisite change in Math 117

Math 117 is a one-quarter calculus course. It is taken by primarily by Architecture majors on the Columbus campus, and by Middle Childhood majors on the extended campuses. The current prerequisite is Math 148 (College Algebra) or Math 150 (Elementary Functions). We propose to change that prerequisite to only Math 150 (Elementary Functions).

Years ago, Math 117 served different audiences and was a general survey of the ideas of calculus. Over the past decade the course has evolved into a more rigorous introduction to calculus, requiring deeper knowledge of precalculus topics covered in Math 150. In particular, we have found that students need a strong background in the algebra of functions. That topic is only briefly covered in Math 148 but is emphasized in Math 150.