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**Without a bridging mathematics course, can distance education students survive?**

Fitzsimons, Gail E. et al., Adult and lifelong education in mathematics. Adult Education Resource and Information Service (ARIS), Melbourne (ISBN 1-876768-27-4). 245-249 (2001).

Adults with widely varying mathematical backgrounds return to study at Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University. A large proportion of these students, whose study programs include a compulsory mathematics course, lack knowledge of mathematical fundamentals and find it difficult to complete the program successfully. This research, based on questionnaires completed by students attending face-to-face tutorials, looks into the difficulties students face and suggests steps that the university should take to assist them to lay a foundation on which to build successful study.

*Classification:* B68