

Table 1

Background and Ability Comparison Matrix

Background	Ability	
	<i>Nontechnical (N)</i>	<i>Technical (T)</i>
<i>Nontechnical (N)</i>	<i>NN</i> : The student is prepared neither theoretically nor practically for the course. Many students with clinical or managerial backgrounds fall into this category. The difficulty here is ensuring that they do not fall behind early and/or become discouraged.	<i>NT</i> : The student possesses an aptitude for technology, but does not have the theoretical framework from which to draw. It is tempting to thrust advanced materials on these students, but their ability to perform a task does not prepare them for deductive processes (i.e., the ability to solve any problem as opposed to a concrete piece of a problem).
<i>Technical (T)</i>	<i>TN</i> : An unusual category, but possible for those who have taken more theoretical courses without necessarily being very hands-on. These students quickly grasp the theoretical components but need more applied instruction.	<i>TT</i> : The student has both the background and ability to progress through the course at an accelerated rate. Students in this category must be challenged without disturbing the overall grade distribution of the course. This topic is discussed further in the “Engaging the Advanced Student” section.