



Math Study Tips

Mindset

- Before starting the next math class in the series or sequence, review the math from your previous class.
- Never fall behind. The class usually start out easy as a mean to review concepts necessary for you to to dive into the course material. The course will shift to higher gear so having kept up would give you extra time for the more difficult sections.
- Think of Math as time consuming rather than difficult as this will give you a sense of control over your performance.
- It is alright to memorize math symbols and definitions, but try to understand the underlying processes and concepts. When looking at a problem ask yourself what is the purpose for each step.
- If tutoring is available, use it early in the semester even if you feel that you understand the material.

Lectures

- Write down everything the instructor writes. Even if you think you understand a problem, writing down everything will let you clear up your confusion when it does surface.
- Review you class notes at the end of the day by working out each example done in class. Check your answers with those from the notes.

Reading Your Textbooks

- Read or scan the section before your lecture and read it again after the lecture. Don't read it to memorize, read it to understand the concepts and the mechanics behind solving the problems.
- Work out each example problem as you read through the section or chapter. Never promise yourself you would do it later or over the weekend.

Homework

- Do the homework soon after class while the concepts are still fresh in your mind.
- Work through all assigned problems. If pressed for time, do at least one representative sample from each kind of problem.
- Read each problem carefully to make sure you understand each word. This is especially applicable in word problems.
- Approach a word problem by summarizing it into a diagram or set the information into a table.
- For very difficult word problems, substitute simpler numbers. This can help you understand the nature of the problem then you can use the actual numbers.

Studying for Exams

- Your first test will likely be the easiest so do well it in as you may need to offset lower exam grades later in the semester.
- Doing well on homework and or quizzes is not a guarantee that you will do well on the exam. Exams can be more challenging because problems are presented in random order and it is usually more difficult to finish in time. • Put together a reference sheet of key formulas and definitions.
- Attend all review sessions.
- Review all quizzes by reworking each problem.
- Work through mixed sets of problems: chapter reviews and old exams.
- Mimic the testing situation as closely as possible while working through the practice exam. This includes timing yourself while you take the practice exam.
- Double check units, positive and negative signs as well as reworking some problems using an alternative method.

Taking the Exam

- Get plenty of sleep the night before the exam.
- When you get the test, write down any formulas you might forget.
- Look at the amount of points for each problem. Think about how to get the most points in the shortest amount of time. Start with the easier problem then return to harder ones.

- Work out all problems even when you are unsure. Partial credit are usually given for your reasoning.
- When your exam is graded and return, work through all the problems you missed and analyze your mistakes to prevent repeating them in the next exam.