

Tips for Success in Math Classes

BEFORE YOU SIGN UP FOR A MATH CLASS

1. Make sure you have AT LEAST three times as many hours available each week outside of class to study as you spend in class.
2. Sign up for math classes as soon as you can (know when registration opens and when you can register).
3. Take your math classes one after the other. A math class builds on the previous math class, taking a semester off can decrease your chances of passing your next class.
4. Choose a section that meets at a time of day when you will be alert and comfortable.

ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS

5. Get a copy of the syllabus and keep it.
6. Understand your instructor's policies. Know when homeworks are due, when exams are given, whether or not calculators can be used on exams, how you will be graded, and ask your instructor about any policy you do not understand.
7. Know your instructor's office hours and where your instructor's office is located.
8. Meet the students around you. Determine individuals who might be potential study group members.

FOR EACH DAY OF CLASS

9. Attend each and every day of class.
10. Sit in the front of the class. It will help you stay focused. Make sure you can see any materials your instructor displays and make sure you can hear the instructor.
11. Take careful notes during the class. Make sure to ask questions if you miss something the instructor said or if you do not understand something.
12. Schedule time (about an hour) EVERY DAY to work on material for the class. Even if you do not have homework due, practice problems, look over your notes, read the upcoming section in the book, etc.
13. Each class builds on the previous class. Falling a day behind will put you at a disadvantage. Falling a week behind can get you into big trouble.
14. Your instructor is there to help you. Do not be afraid to ask questions during class, utilize your instructor's office hours, and utilize the free Cascadia Math tutoring.
15. Read the section in the book before the day the instructor goes through the material. Come to the class with questions about the section. If your questions do not get answered over the course of the class, make sure to ask them.
16. Actively participate in each and every class. If your instructor gives you problems to work during class, make sure to try the problems and ask for help about anything you have questions about.
17. Make sure to come to class with everything you need. Your book, your calculator (if appropriate), any homework that is due or you are working on, a writing utensil, paper/notebook for notes, and any questions you need to get answered that day.
18. Earn as high a grade as you possibly can, not just a high enough to pass. Your next math class will build on the material from the class you are taking now, the better you understand the material in this class, the better you will do in your next class.
19. Take responsibility. Your instructor does not **give** you a grade, you **earn** your grade.

HOMEWORK

20. Start your homework on the day it is assigned. Ask your instructor or the tutoring lab about any problems you do not understand. After you understand how to do problems you did not understand, try other problems like it from the book.

21. Turn in your homework complete and on-time. After you get your homework back, make sure you understand anything your got wrong on the homework.
22. If your instructor assigns problems and the answers are available (in the back of the book, for example), first attempt the problem, then check the answer. If you get it wrong, try to see if you can find your mistake. If you cannot, ask your instructor, fellow students, the tutoring lab, etc. well before the assignment is due.
23. Save your homeworks. Homework problems are great review problems to practice while studying for your exams.

PREPARING FOR EXAMS

24. If the instructor provides exam reviews, start looking at it as soon as it is available.
 - a. Do all of the questions on the review under test conditions (without looking at your notes or the book).
 - b. Check your answers after you complete the review.
 - c. Try to determine what you did wrong for each question you missed.
 - d. Go to your instructor or the tutoring lab for help with any of the questions you do not understand.
 - e. Try other problems in the book like the ones you missed until your feel confident.
25. If your instructor does not give exam reviews, follow the same steps above but with any homework problems you have been given.
26. Get enough sleep the night before the exam.
27. Give yourself plenty of time to get to class on the day of an exam and come prepared with pencils, erasers, scratch paper, calculator (if allowed) with fresh batteries, etc.

TAKING EXAMS

28. Read all of the directions carefully.
29. Read each problem carefully.
30. Mark problems that are causing you difficulty and move on to the next problem. Come back to the problems that are causing you difficulty after you have completed all of the problems you know how to do.
31. SHOW ALL OF YOUR WORK.
32. After you complete the exam, if you have time remaining in the class, go back and check all of your answers before turning in your exam.
33. After you get your exam back, look over any questions you got wrong. If you do not understand your mistakes, make sure to see your instructor or the tutoring lab as soon as possible to resolve your questions.
34. Keep your exams. They are great references for studying for the final exam.

AFTER YOU COMPLETE THE COURSE

35. Take your next math class as soon as possible.
36. Keep your notes and textbooks from all your math classes until you finish all of your math courses. You might want to take a look at work you have done in a previous class when you take your next one.