

How to Be Successful in your College Math course

1. **Attend Class**

Generally speaking, there is a definite positive correlation between regular attendance and good grades. Don't skip class!

2. **Take Good Notes**

If your instructor posts partial notes or outlines of notes, print them and bring them to class. The posted notes/outline will help facilitate your note-taking and enable you to get everything down in an orderly manner.

3. **Use Your Notes**

Read over the notes and the examples again after class, before you begin working your practice problems. Don't use your notes only as a reference for parallel problem examples.

4. **Practice! Practice! Practice!**

Math is not a spectator sport! Guidelines for many years have remained the same: for every hour spend in class, expect to spend three hours studying and practicing outside of class. That does *not* typically include work on specific graded assignments.

5. **Use solution manuals wisely**

When you practice/work problems from the textbook, don't be too quick to consult the book answers or the solutions manual. You must learn to think through problems, much like you will be required to do on an exam. Give it a good try before you look.

6. **Keep Up**

Study your notes and practice problems after every class meeting, before the next one. Among other reasons, sometimes the next lecture will build on your understanding of the previous lecture. Even if it doesn't, if you don't develop good habits, you can get behind really fast.

7. **Make every assignment count**

You never know at the end of the semester how close you may come to the next higher letter grade. Don't neglect any assignments. Don't skip any graded work. Do your best on every exam. That way you will have no regrets at the end.

8. **Correct graded assignments ASAP**

Once a graded assignment is returned, don't ignore it or discard it. Find out why you missed what you missed. Work the problems until you get them right. Learn from your mistakes, and do it while the material is fresh.

9. **Don't bomb an exam**

You are not ready for an exam unless you can work an assortment of problems from all the material without having to consult your notes or examples constantly as you do so. On the first exam, since you don't know the instructors testing style – over study! However much you think is enough – do more. Then, you can judge the rest of the semester.

10. **Get extra help**

See your instructor during office hours. Go to the help sessions. Attend the week-in-review, or at least work the problems posted for the week-in-review. Form a study group.