



Math Study Skills

Successful Math Students:
Study at least 2 hours per hour spent in the class.

10 Basic Tips For Succeeding In Your Math Course

1. **Manage Math Anxiety:** You are not alone. Admit that you have math anxiety and it will become easier to deal with it. Then take steps to better prepare yourself including studying math each day, using your learning style, and learning/understanding the basics.
2. **Attend All Classes:** Math builds upon itself, so it is critical that you attend all classes. If you miss a session make sure to get notes from a reliable source.
3. **Organize Your Notes:** Write clearly and leave space to make notations in your notes. Have a notebook that is just for your math class. Date and title the top of every note page and use a system of categories so that you can recognize the types of notes that you have taken.
4. **During Classes:** Be an active participant when working on problems. This will help keep you focused.
5. **Ask Questions:** Never be intimidated to ask questions. It is likely that some of your classmates also have questions on the material that you are wondering about.
6. **Review After Class:** Review your notes immediately after class. Fill in any blanks that you had, note any questions, and organize your information. If you review immediately after class while the material is still fresh in your mind, it is easier to remember that information.
7. **Review 8 Hours After Class:** Reviewing immediately after class helps keep the information fresh in your mind, but taking time to review at the end of the day it will be more beneficial to you in the long run verses a all-nighter the day before the exam.
8. **Create Study Guides:** Every time you review information add it to your study guide. This will help you to not only make connections between the material, but serve as a foundation and quick resource for future material.
9. **Attend Your Professor's Office Hours:** If you have questions about the material you covered in class one of the best places to get information is by talking to your professor.
10. **Relate the things that you learn to everyday life:** This makes it easier for you to remember things, especially if you are thinking outside of the math text or classroom realm.

How Math Is Different From Other Subjects:

1. **Math requires different study processes.** You have to do the math problems to learn and understand the material.
2. **Math builds upon previous ideas .** You need to remember ideas throughout the semester and into the next class. Short term memorization and last minute cramming will not be helpful.
3. **Math is much like a foreign language.** It is different from what you already know and it is important to practice every day until it becomes more understandable.
4. **Math is the university is different from math in high school.** Things that took a year to learn are covered in a semester. There is a lot of information in such a short time.

Suggestions for Studying Math:

Reasons people have math anxiety:

1. People don't try to understand the ideas; they just use short term memorization and this is stressful.
2. They are underprepared- math is cumulative.

How to study math

1. Keep up- review notes after class.
2. Take good notes- put everything from the board on the paper.
3. Read the text-and if you don't understand, get help.
4. Get a study friend.
5. Have a set time to complete your math homework. Treat it as a scheduled class. The math lab is a good place to do homework.

How to study for math exams:

1. Start at day one- do your homework.
2. Memorize formulas- use flash cards.
3. Rework problems that you missed on the homework.

Taking a math exam:

1. Read through the exam.
2. Read all of the instructions before starting.
3. Make sure that you have collected the correct information before starting the problem.
4. Write out each step of the solution.
5. Know multiple choice strategies.
6. Double check your math, especially calculator entries.
7. Does the answer make sense?
8. Use your time wisely

Math is problem solving:

1. Read the full question.
2. Analyze and compute.
3. Given/Find/Need:
 - What's given?
 - What do you need to find?
 - What do you need to do?
4. Draw pictures- they can simplify the problem.
5. Know how to use a calculator properly
6. Check your results- do the problem again another way.

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Sources & Additional Resources:

Hopper, C. (2004). *Practicing college learning strategies*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company