

10 Tips for Math Courses



This sheet is compilation of advice/tips from faculty members in the math department as well as advice from students who have been successful in their math courses.

1. Always go to class and actively take notes.
2. On tests you might not have as much time to think per problem as you would on a homework night! "Don't think of your practice problems as homework assignments, but as an opportunity to get quicker at each type of problem."
3. Try to make it fun. "When I sit down to start long math assignments I love to throw on my favorite music. It helps me concentrate on the problems and also gives me benchmarks to take breaks. (I'll take a 15min break at the end of this song etc.)"
4. "One of the biggest strategies that has helped me in the math area has been to keep up on the homework assigned (not doing everything the night before it was due, if possible) and to reasonably understand how I arrived at the answer I got. For me, this also entails showing all my work. In addition, if I did not understand how to get the correct answer, I asked the professors, my TA, or other sources questions. If I was particularly struggling with a topic in class, I would do problems not assigned for more practice. I also like to complete any study guides posted by the professor. If the professor has posted a practice exam, I like to complete the practice exam in the amount of time I would have for the actual exam."
5. "Do homework problems twice. I usually do them once as a "rough draft" then transfer them to a separate sheet of paper done more neatly in order to review."
6. Do practice problems from the class textbook based on the problems seen in lecture and on homework.
7. "Work on problems after each class. Math builds on the previous knowledge. If you understand material from the previous class, the new information will make more sense. Work the example problems shown from class on your own. Make sure you understand how to do them before working on the homework."
8. "Utilize the Math Lab, seriously! The TA's and tutors there are very helpful and can provide assistance for whatever you have questions with. Go to the Math Lab to do your math assignments and if you have questions you'll always have help nearby."
9. "Find help if things don't make sense. Examples include: online help, asking a friend, going to professor/TA's office hours, coming to SI, or anything else-- all students should have a comfortable way to find help and get their questions answered if there is any confusion."
10. Talk to your TA and/or Professor. Visit during office hours. Always review material and come prepared with questions.

