

How to Achieve Success in College Math

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After several years of teaching, I've noticed a pattern in student comments: "I'm not very good at math." "I'm having trouble with my assignment and don't know where to begin." "I'm a right-brained individual." While it is true that each person is born with unique skills and abilities, it is also true that the majority of people have the ability to learn new things and acquire new skills.

When someone attempts to learn volleyball or classical dance for the first time, they frequently feel perplexed and ungainly. There's a lot going on at once, and it's difficult to decide which mistake to address first. A skilled coach can assist students by teaching one skill at a time and then demonstrating how all of the skills go together. These notes can help if you feel like there's too much going on in your math class at once. We've attempted to break down the process of learning mathematics into distinct skills and then demonstrate how they all come together to make you a great math user.

Study Techniques

❖ You're studying your textbook

Math books have a distinct style that encompasses the entire presentation as well as the structure of arguments.

❖ Read at least twice

To completely comprehend the subject, more than one reading is required.

1. Read it once to understand the gist of it.
2. Read it a second time to make sure you understand everything.
3. Reread the primary notion to make sure you understand it.

❖ A word about underlining

In math textbooks, underlining and highlighting are less useful because definitions are frequently set apart from the rest of the text with bold letters. Equations are highlighted in the display, and essential formulas are displayed in a box or against a coloured background.

Highlighting can be counterproductive. Formulas will be easier to remember if they are highlighted. While reviewing, highlighting makes it easier to recognise it.

❖ Note-taking

It is impossible to transcribe every word when taking notes. The majority of class time should be spent to a discussion among students and instructors. Textbooks are offered since they serve as a repository for numerous ideas and examples. Reading material prior to a class will help you take better notes. Take a look at the samples and understand the essential points. During the lecture, open the materials to the relevant pages. If a book example is being discussed, instead of taking notes, attempt to listen and pay attention. If you don't comprehend something in the lecture, writing it down and trying to understand it later won't help. Instead, ask a question and make sure you comprehend the answer. Taking notes aids in the creation of an outline, which helps their memory. Make a list of what is missing from the content. Listening, thinking, questioning, and taking notes should all be part of the class time.

❖ Home Work

Your instructor will assign homework problems to be handed in and graded on a regular basis. It allows the instructor to do a quick review of your performance and provide criticism. It is up to you to practise issues in order to develop your skills. You haven't truly mastered your schoolwork until you can solve the problems without using the book's hints. If you don't understand something, ask your instructor for clarification. It's best to get assistance.

❖ Professionalism

Turning in handwritten initial draughts on shredded paper, with cross-out, etc. in most classes outside of Mathematics, and in most employment outside of college, would be regarded inappropriate... We make an exception for handwritten solutions in math classrooms because the time spent editing would be better spent learning. Take satisfaction in what you've created: Make a clean copy of your solution on white paper with straight margins, in order, legibly written, and stapled. It will also aid your understanding of the content.

❖ How much should I write?

The subject of how much detail to include is frequently asked. The answer is sufficient, but not excessive. Enough: Include enough information to convince your instructor that you understand how to tackle the problem. You don't need to show every elementary arithmetic process, so don't go overboard.

❖ Working together

If done correctly, studying in groups of two or three may be a huge help in terms of learning.

- Talk to your partner about the questions and the answer.
- Compare and discuss your responses.

- Don't be a slacker.
- Don't give your partner a free ride.

❖ Studying for Exam

Successfully studying for a math exam differs from successful studying for other courses. Exams in mathematics generally focus on skills and topics that cannot be memorised the night before the exam. Mastering homework is the single most significant strategy to study for tests. Review all relevant questions and ideas before the exam. Do more problems as well. Take practise tests. It will assist you in becoming more familiar with questions.

❖ Taking Exams

There is no question that the most important factor is doing well on timed exams is knowing the material well enough to work problems quickly and with confidence. Effective time management can help you do the best you can.

- Read the entire exam over quickly, as soon as you get it, and plan your attack.
- Divide your allotted time into chunks for each problems
- You don't need to do the problems in order
- Don't let yourself get stuck on a Problem.

Conclusion

Learning mathematics follows a consistent process. It relates to the overall framework of courses as well as your mastery of each of the abilities you study. If you've ever learned to play a sport or a musical instrument, you'll recognise it.

1. Practice each ability separately, under controlled conditions, until you can execute it quickly and confidently.
2. Create sequences out of the individual talents. Practice until you can easily and confidently chain skills together with varied variants.
3. Practice in a realistic setting until you can confidently and readily deal with comprehensive real-world difficulties.
4. Set out to tackle real-world problems.

If you follow the advice given here and make good use of the tools available to you (books, instructors, classmates), you'll soon find yourself practising math and even enjoying it.