

General Study Tips—Math

1. **First things first** - make sure you have an adequate math background for the class level you are taking. Be prepared to spend some time on your own to review past material.
2. **Attend class every day** and keep up to stay on top of the material presented in class. Math classes are "cumulative" - new information is often built upon past material. If you fall behind you won't know what is going on in the class.
3. **Recognize the time commitment.** Two hours outside of class for every hour in class might only get you a passing grade. Take into account the time necessary to review past material, do homework problems, preview new material before each class, and prepare for exams.
4. **Don't take a lot of notes.** Instead, watch the instructor do the exercises and mark in your textbook which parts seem important. Note page and exercise numbers in your textbook and take notes on key steps in the solution of the problem. Also note which problems from homework assignments were done in class. Exams and quizzes often contain similar exercises to those done in the classroom.
5. **Study immediately after class.** Try to solve the problems your instructor just went over. If you let more than a few hours pass between your class and when you study, it will be hard to recall the things your instructor said and did in the classroom.
6. **Don't just do the easiest exercises.** Do intermediate and advanced ones as well to get better than just a passing grade. This will increase your understanding of the material. Go outside of your textbook and find supplementary materials for practice problems.
7. **When preparing for an exam,** analyze as many of the assigned problems as you can. Read through the problem completely and answer such questions as:
 - What is given?
 - What is unknown?
 - Have I seen a problem like this before?
 - How am I going to proceed?

You may analyze many problems but actually work out less than half of them.
8. **Use practice exams to study** and prepare for real tests. Ask the instructor for an old test, sample quiz, or even just one example test question. Also, study guides and computerized tutorials often contain practice tests. Practice exams can help reduce test anxiety as well.

