

## ***How To Study Mathematics***

### ***Using My Math Lab***

#### ***Preparing for Class***

- **Read and review** the appropriate material before class
- **Come to class prepared.**
  1. Know which homework problems you have questions about and what the questions are.
  2. Read the next section(s) in the book or e-book
  3. Study your notes from the previous class . . . if you have any questions, be ready to ask them.

#### ***Using the Class Notebook***

- Use a three ring notebook – with dividers
- Transcribe notes after class – add definitions and examples from the text or e-book
- Do work in pencil – neat and organized as related to problems in MY Math Lab
- Take notes in class.
  1. Date your class notes.
  2. Write down examples that are not in the book.
  3. Write what the instructor is saying as well as what he is writing on the board.
  4. Write down procedures for solving problems.
- If you are falling behind the class, see the study center and/or your instructor. Go prepared to ask specific questions.

#### ***Studying from the Text – or use the e-book on My Math Lab***

- Read word for word – mathematics texts are not novels.
- When you come to a definition, try to think of some examples.
- Try to say the definition in your own words – write it out
- Work through examples step-by-step. Neatly.

- Do the homework regularly. Do not wait and do a marathon session at the last minute - Use pencil and eraser for your work..
- If you get stuck:
  1. Find an example like the problem you are working.
  2. Reread the section.
  3. Skip the problem and go on to others.
  4. Take a short break.

## Getting Help with My Math Lab Doing Homework

- a. Click on **HELP ME SOLVE THIS** to get step-by step help –but provide the answers at each step (so that you learn the process of solving that type of problem.) Write down the appropriate information in your notebook.
- b. Click on **VIEW AN EXAMPLE** to see a similar exercise explained step-by step (click the CONTINUE button on the bottom of the screen to advance.)
- c. A number of exercises may have videos and animations, showing how to work that type of exercise.
- d. Click on **TEXTBOOK PAGES** to view the e-book so you can read about this type of problem in your actual textbook.
- e. Use the **POWER POINT** slides that accompany the program related to the content material.
- f. Click on **PRINT** to print out the exercises as many times as you need to improve your understanding.
- g. **Get TUTORING.** You have access to free tutoring help through MYMATHLAB. Click on the **CHAPTER CONTENTS** button on your home page and find the **MATH TUTOR CENTER** information at the top of the screen. You can use your MYMATHLAB course ID or student access code to register and then get help by calling a toll-free number, emailing or faxing the Tutor Center, or using an interactive Web feature.
- h. **Additional Help on using My Math Lab** can be found on the Chapter Contents page by clicking on Student Help viewing the tip sheets, or watching a student tour on how to enter answers. You can access the tour directly at:  
[http://media.pearsoncmg.com/cmg/pmmg/player\\_tour/enteranswers.html](http://media.pearsoncmg.com/cmg/pmmg/player_tour/enteranswers.html)

## ***Preparing for and Taking a Test – MY Math Lab***

### ➤ Take a **PRACTICE TEST**

Take a practice test (B tests) by clicking on the **TAKE A TEST** button on the left on your home page. Choose any chapter and take the test. Once you have completed the test you can review it and get immediate feedback. After reviewing your test, go to the STUDY PLAN to see which topics you still need to practices.

- **Use your personalized STUDYPLAN:** Click the **STUDY Plan** button on the left on your home page. The test you just took created a personalized study plan that will help you focus on those areas that caused you difficulty. Select a chapter and then click on the section you want to work on (found in the middle of the page.) A list of exercises will appear. You can work each exercise as many times as you want, as the numbers will change each time you do the problem. Some exercises may include video clips and animations for additional help.

## ***Taking a MY Math Lab Examination***

- Know the deadline for the examination. MY MATH LAB tests are normally over one chapter. The instructor may allow multiple times to take the exam, so one should take the test prior to the deadline, in case one feels the need to take the test over.
- If taking the MY MATH LAB test over, the highest score will count.
- Know your time limits. The time for the MY Math Lab is set by the instructor and is more than adequate for students to complete the examination if they are properly prepared.
- Do not leave the examination or log off the computer. Unlike homework, one cannot log out and then come back and continue. One would have to start over.
- Read the instructions for answers very carefully and follow them specifically. For example, if the answer is supposed to be a fraction and is  $\frac{1}{2}$ , do not enter 0.5, as it will be marked incorrectly. If the answer calls for rounding off to tenths, do not enter 1.23 instead of 1.2
- If retaking an examination on MY MATH LAB the student should work more on the study plan to determine how to improve the test score. Just taking the test over again does not make for better results.

## *Preparing and Taking a Written Examination*

- **Preparation** - Be sure you know what material the test will cover.
  1. Your studying begins when doing homework and organizing your homework notebook. Do not try to do all of this at the last minute.
  2. Have a list of all definitions, formulas, and new terms.
  3. Identify the different types of problems and know the procedure for solving each type.
  4. Be physically ready.
- Plan on an **intense** studying at least one to two nights prior to the examination.
- **Taking an examination**
  1. Arrive on time or a few minutes early and review your notes. (If an in class examination)
  2. Have several sharpened pencils and a good eraser. Do not do test using ink pens.
  3. Briefly glance through the entire test. (If a written test)
  4. When doing my Math Lab tests, do your work on paper, showing all of your work, write your answers neatly and circle. It is important to show your work.
  5. Do all the problems you know how to do first.
  6. Work steadily and carefully.
- **After the exam**
  1. Make a place in your notebook for the examination
  2. Do test corrections on the examination.
  3. Get assistance either from the study center or the instructor to insure you know how to do all problems. Remember, the final examination is comprehensive, and final examination problems normally reflect previous problems.

## **Planning your Week**

- **Make a weekly study schedule.** Utilize Time Management techniques
  1. Give a specific minimum amount of study time for each course.
  2. Expect approximately 2 hours of homework for each hour of class.
  3. Be organized. Plan on 3 hours of study if the course is a virtual or hybrid course meeting only one time a week. If you are of weaker

- mathematics ability, the number of hours required to be successful will increase.
4. Use your study time efficiently – do not multi-task. Have a Good study environment, your graphing calculator, and all necessary resources. Mathematics study requires strong concentration. Eliminate the distractions, such as television.
  5. Review your study schedule, if you need to, after 2-3 weeks of class.
- **Attend Class** – your class grade may be lowered for lack of attendance. Be aware of the instructor’s attendance policy – Be aware of the instructor’s tardy policy. – For example – a tardy is counted as an absence.
  - **To prepare for a major exam**, a term paper, or a project:
    1. Revise your study schedule.
    2. Do not sacrifice all your courses for any one course.
    3. Return to your old schedule as soon as possible after examination or term paper.
  - **Cut your Losses**
    1. If you do not have enough time to do a class, give careful consideration to withdrawing from a class, or cutting the amount of time or devoted to work.
    2. Do not make the same mistake over and over. If you are doing badly in the course, something has to change, as the course material will not get easier.
    3. If you are repeating the course, do not repeat the behavior or have the same situation that led to either withdrawing or failure in the previous taking of the course.

## **ELIMINATE THE EXCUSES**

**HAVE A BACK UP PLAN AND A BACK UP PLAN TO THE BACK UP PLAN!!!!**

If you have a home computer that goes “bad” that is no excuse. There are plenty of computers at the college. Do not wait to the last minute for assignments and tests, but if you do, have a backup plan in case the computer goes bad. Late work is not accepted!

**STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE OVER 70% ON HOMEWORK, OVER 70% ON TESTS, AND WHO REGULARLY ATTEND CLASS WILL SUCCEED IN THEIR MATHEMATICS COURSE!!!**