

Math Study Skills

- **Math is not a spectator sport.** You must be actively involved in the learning process. Go to class and pay attention during class, take a good set of notes, and review your notes often. Be prepared to study for math every day or several days a week.
- **Make a set of index cards** with important formulas and key problems; look them over when you have a few spare minutes; use them to help you memorize these important formulas.
- **Work to understand the concepts.** You will need to do more than just memorize a set of formulas. You need to understand the underlying concepts and know why and when to use the formulas.
- **Figure it out right away.** Because math tends to build upon itself, it's important that you take the time to learn the concepts now so you won't be floundering about it later.
- **Explain out loud.** If you can explain to yourself what a derivative is and describe the general formula for finding it without reading it out of a textbook or your notes, it's a good sign that you understood the concept. Explaining things to yourself out loud gives you a pretty good idea of what you do and don't know.
- **Don't wait.** Attempt your homework shortly after class. Doing this will help you to understand the concepts covered that day and how to apply them while the lecture is still fresh in your mind. Try to start a study session with your math homework as your mind will be sharpest.
- **Form a study group.** Work together to solve problems and take turns assigning questions and "teaching" each other.
- **Practice as much as possible.** The only way to really learn how to do problems is to work through as many of them as you can. The more problems you do, the better prepared you will be for the exam.

