

## How to get help in Math 111/2

First, work ahead on homework; pretend the closing date is actually two days early. Tutoring services are always busiest the day or two before the homework is due, so don't expect to find a lot of help if you wait until the last day.

**Do NOT immediately go to a tutor if you are stuck**, spend some time trying to figure it out yourself. If you sit in the tutoring center and immediately raise your hand for help on every questions, then you will do poorly in this class. You need to treat homework exactly like an exam if you want to get a high grade in this course. Really, truly treat each homework problem like an exam problem, try it on your own for a while without looking things up or going to a tutor. Here are things I expect every student to do before they ask for help:

- a) Read the problem carefully (at least twice). Write down what is **given** and what you **want**.
- b) Write down the definitions and key terms. And label all unknowns or draw a picture.
- c) Is there anything you can solve for? Do it!
- d) Think about similar problems you have seen in lecture and in the book.  
(At this time, go reread the lecture and book examples).
- e) Attempt the problem again. **Check your work wherever possible**.  
(Plug in your final answer back into the start and see that things match up).
- f) Reread the question, did you answer the correct question and give the desired result?  
Did you leave your answer in exact form? We almost always want exact form in this class (so  $1/3$  is acceptable, but  $0.33333$  is not).

You can do everything above in a matter of minutes. Now if you are still stuck, then make sure all this work is neatly written on a sheet of paper so that you can show a friend, or a TA, or a tutor, or me. Don't come to a tutor and say "I don't understand any of the problem", instead show us what you have done (there is a lot you can do as mentioned above) and show us exactly in your work where you are stuck.

**After following my advice above, here is where you can get help:**

1. Ask questions in quiz section.
2. Ask a tutor in the Math 111/2 Study Center – Comm. B-006  
Mon – Thurs: 12:30am-4:30pm
3. Ask a tutor in CLUE – Mary Gates Commons  
Sun – Thurs: 7pm-midnight
4. Work in study groups with classmates, then send one group member to office hours.
5. Visit your TA's office hours.
6. Visit my office hours.
7. If you have already tried all these resources or if the issue is a technical one, you can also write me a short specific email (tell me your name, class, homework assignment and problem).