

Lecturer: Dr. Andrew D. Loveless **Email:** alovels@uw.edu
Office Hrs: MWF 12:30–1:45, RAI 116 **Web:** math.washington.edu/~aloveles

Our Mutual Goals: My goals are to prepare you for Math 124, strengthen your problem-solving skills, make you a better college students, and help you find joy in learning. You have a reason for being here, whether it’s a degree, career, or personal goal. Write that reason at the front of your notebook and revisit it often. This is your education: take ownership, stay engaged, and plan for success. I’ll provide the structure and support, but real progress comes from you. Together, we’ll make this class both productive and fun.

Text & Materials: The only **required** purchase is WebAssign access, available directly through the homework website in the first 10 days of the quarter. The corresponding text, *Precalculus* by D.H. Collingwood and K.D. Prince, is freely available online through the course website.

Course Objectives: This course prepares you for calculus by developing problem-solving skills and stamina. More than memorizing mechanics, Math 120 emphasizes multi-step problems that combine precalculus concepts.

Grading:

Category	Weight	Example %	Score
Test Prep (Tu/Th)	5%	96%	= 4.8
Homework (Tu/Th)	15%	90%	= 13.5
Midterm 1 (Thu, Oct 16)	20%	76%	= 15.2
Midterm 2 (Thu, Nov 13)	20%	88%	= 17.6
Final Exam (Sat, Dec 6)	40%	89%	= 33.6
Total	100%		84.7

In this example, the student’s total is 84.7%, roughly a 3.0. The department requires a median grade near 2.9. Typically, averaging above 70% on exams earns at least a 2.0 (passing). To be successful in Math 124, aim for at least 75% on exams and a grade above 2.5.

Lectures: MWF. You are responsible for all lecture material and should read the corresponding textbook chapters beforehand. Begin homework on the day we cover the topic in class.

Quiz Sections: Held Tu/Th with your TA. At the start of section you’ll work on a homework or exam-style problem.

- Tuesday: Upload work to Gradescope for feedback (graded mostly on participation).
- Thursday: Enter a participation code.

The rest of section is for questions and discussion. Come prepared, having reviewed problems in advance. Respect your TA—the best way to support them is by bringing thoughtful questions.

Homework: Homework is submitted through WebAssign and closes on scheduled dates. To succeed, aim to complete most assignments within 3 days of the topic being covered (so that you are done 2–3 days before the closing date).

Exams: Midterms are 50 minutes in your regular quiz section classroom. The cumulative final is on **Saturday, Dec 6**.

Calculators & Notes: The only calculator allowed on exams is the TI-30X IIS (approx. \$20). For exams, you may bring one hand-written 8.5×11 inch notes sheet (both sides).

Make-Ups & Extensions:

- **Homework Extensions:** You may request 3-day extensions automatically in WebAssign (15% penalty). No other extensions are given.
- **Test Prep:** No make-ups. You may miss up to 3 without penalty.
- **Midterms:** No make-ups. In case of emergency, contact me promptly. Your other exams may be weighted more heavily.
- **Final Exam:** For emergencies or UW conflicts, submit a petition through: math.washington.edu/common-finals. All final exam make-up requests must go through this process.

Grace in Grading:

- **Homework Grace:** Everyone receives a 5% boost at the end of the quarter (max 100%).
- **Homework Early Incentive:** Completing a problem at least 2 days early earns a 4% bonus on that problem. Bonuses are added at the end of term and can raise your homework percentage above 100%.
- **Low Midterm Adjustment:** At the end of the term, if it helps, your lowest midterm may be replaced by 70% of the average of your other midterm and the final. This mainly supports students at risk of not passing.

Class Philosophy: Two rules for success:

1. **Homework is key.** Learning happens when you solve problems independently and understand the ideas. Treat each problem like an exam question. Keep asking ‘Could I do this on a test?’
2. **Ask for help early.** Everyone gets stuck. Talk to your TA, me, classmates, the Math Study Center, or CLUE. Don’t wait until it’s too late. Build a regular schedule and follow my advice on the course calendar.

Access and DRS Accommodations: If you already have accommodations through Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please activate them in myDRS so we can discuss how they will be applied in this course. If you have not yet set up services, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability, contact DRS at disability.uw.edu. DRS works with students and faculty to establish reasonable accommodations.

Excused Absences: Students who anticipate missing class due to academic conferences, field trips, or university-sponsored activities should notify me in advance. For absences due to illness or emergencies, you must request in writing to make up an exam or equivalent work. Your instructor will determine what counts as equivalent work or how to prorate your grade.

Religious Accommodations: Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW’s policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at Religious Accommodations Policy (<https://registrar.washington.edu/staff-faculty/religious-accommodations-policy/>). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request form (<https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>).