
Advice for Succeeding in Math 120

Here's the deal: this is a challenging class. A lot of people see the name "precalculus" and assume they know everything already. While some of the material will be review, much of it will be new to you, and the homework and exam problems are probably much more difficult than you're used to. So please take this class seriously.

That said, it's not hard to do well in this class if you're willing to use all the resources available to you. Here are some resources to consider:

1. Come to office hours.

This is the best time to ask me or your TA questions about whatever material is giving you trouble. If you have a conflict with my regular office hours, send me an email and we can set up another meeting.

2. Make the most out of quiz section.

Most of the time, your TA will be using quiz sections to review the material that you find most challenging. This is way more effective if you ask questions, especially if you've looked at the homework ahead of time so you know what to ask.

3. Write on the Catalyst forum.

Stuck on the homework? This is the fastest place to get a response to your problems. I usually answer questions within 15 minutes if it's not too late and I'm at my computer.

<https://catalyst.uw.edu/gopost/board/ostroff/41503/>

4. Ask questions in class.

I know it's hard to speak up in a room of 160 people, but if you're confused about something I said, surely someone else is too. It's much easier to get the most out of lecture when you get your questions answered right away.

5. Practice the Daily Fake Exam Problems.

Starting in the second week, I'll post daily exam-like problems at the start of class. Practicing these is a good way to make sure you're keeping up with the material.

6. Time yourself on old exams.

A lot of Math 120 students are surprised by how short 50 minutes feels on the midterms. Use a timer (and the exam archive) to practice working quickly.

7. Visit a tutoring center.

There are many tutoring centers on campus that cater to this class, including the Math Study Center, CLUE, and the IC. Find one that's comfortable for you.

8. Hire a tutor.

If you'd like more one-on-one time with a tutor, the UW Math Department has a list of private tutors available for hire:

<http://www.math.washington.edu/Undergrad/tutorlists.php>