



Douglas College

Douglas College Learning Centre

## **BUSN, ACCT AND MATH STUDY TIPS**

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Study skills dealing with preparation, organization and commitment are important skills for success in math. These skills will help to ensure your success in college mathematics. This handout can give you some valuable ideas of what you can do, both in tutoring sessions and in class, to ensure a positive math experience.

### **Preparation for Tutoring Appointments**

Good organizational skills are very important as your tutoring session only lasts for 50 minutes. Make the most of tutoring appointments by preparing for your sessions.

- **Use your text.**

Before coming to your appointment, use your textbook to find explanations of terminology or principles you do not understand. Try to use the key elements from your text. Subheadings, bolded words, the glossary, indexes and examples from your text are very useful for learning math. If you are unsure how to use these parts of your textbook, please ask your tutor.

- **Attempt to solve problems independently.**

If you work on problems before your session, you can be very specific with your tutor about your areas of concern. Using this tactic will allow you and your tutor to cover more examples in your session. Show your tutor the steps you used to figure out a problem. This is much better than showing minimal or no work at all. You should attempt to solve and graph equations, even if you are not sure whether the answer is correct. If you show your tutor the steps you use, your tutor can help you see where you went wrong.

### **Active Commitment to Math**

- **Do lots of Math problems.**

People learn best by doing things. In order for you to develop your math skills, you must actively practice math theory. Read and work through the examples and questions in your text. Try to do extra work not assigned, such as review questions and self-check assignments in your text. If you need it, your tutor can give you extra practice problems to help you master your math skills.

- **Talk about Math.**

Success in math means becoming comfortable with the language of math. To become more at ease with the terminology and theory, you should talk to those people around you (family, friends, classmates and instructors) about math concepts and how you interpret these ideas.

- **Plan a regular study time.**

Make a positive commitment towards math! Decide on regular study times for your math homework. Schedule these times and keep to them. If you have concerns with scheduling or time management issues, your tutor can give you advice and resource materials to help you.

- **Work ahead of the class schedule.**

At minimum, you must keep up to the class schedule. If possible, try to work slightly ahead, in order to anticipate problems, which can be raised in class or with your tutor.

- **Use your text, class notes and previous tests as study aids.**

You should get in the habit of using the index, table of contents, appendices and tables in your text and study guide on a regular basis. This strategy will help you remember the material you need to know. Previous tests and quizzes also make excellent study aids. You can learn from your mistakes and review for finals by using these. Math courses tend to be concerned with the steps taken to problem-solve, as well as a correct answer. Part marks can be given if you show your work in a logical and organized fashion, even if the answer is not correct. You can also make your own study aids to help you learn, retain and review key formulas, terminology and concepts. These aids could include cue cards, idea maps and paraphrasing of notes. Again, if you are unsure of what to do, just ask your tutor for help.

## Conclusion

Remember that the Learning Centre is here to help you become independently successful in math. This does not mean that your tutor will do all the work for you, as your tutor is not the person who can submit your assignments or write your exams. Having a good plan of your own will help you be successful in math. In addition, with a positive attitude and some help, you can master the material. Use the resources around you to help you become more comfortable and able to effectively/efficiently problem-solve. Your tutor is here to help you develop your own sense of logic and your own methods to successfully master college level math. Always remember: if you set your mind to it, you can do it. Good Luck!