Studying math requires different skills

Learning mathematics is different than learning most other subjects. Special vocabulary and symbols are used, and it is important that you not only understand the concepts being presented, but that you also apply these concepts. To be successful in math, you need to not only read, attend class, and study, but you must also practice the skills as often as you can. Math is not a subject you learn by watching; you must do math to learn math.

---

General Math Study Strategies

1. Find a quiet place to study.
2. Form a study group, the staff in Learning Services can help get you started.
3. Use auxiliary materials. Learning Services has several different tools available.
4. Use the student solution guides after you have completed as much of the work as possible.
5. Do chapter reviews and tests.
6. Make your own practice test by using two or three problems from each homework assignment.
7. After a quiz, re-work any problems that were incorrect. Concepts and skills generally reappear on mid-term and final exams.

---

How to do your math homework

Make a tutoring appointment online at www.avila.edu/ls or call 816-501-3670.

AVILA UNIVERSITY
Learning Services

Hodes Center
11901 Wornall Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64145

Phone: 816-501-3666
www.avila.edu/ls
Tips on how to get the most out of your study time

- Start by making a study schedule.
  Set aside time each day to study math. It is very important to study for at least 30 minutes to an hour every day. If you need help managing your schedule set an appointment to meet with the Director of Learning Services.

- Maintain a math notebook
  Get a three ring binder to be used exclusively for your math class. Keep all of your notes, handouts, homework, quizzes and exams, as well as your syllabus in the binder. Organize your notes and assignments in the order in which the work was done.

- Read prior to class
  Before class, read the parts of the textbook that will be discussed in class. Pay special attention to new vocabulary and symbols. Highlight and take notes about what you read. When your instructor begins to teach the new material, the words and symbols will not be foreign to you. This allows you to concentrate more on the concepts and skills your instructor presents in class.

- Do the textbook examples
  Each example in the textbook is usually accompanied by a step-by-step procedure for completing the problem. This is beneficial to you because you can look at what part (if any) of the procedure you are having difficulty with.

- Write the mathematical procedures
  When doing your homework, use your notes as a guide and write the procedures you use in completing an exercise. The more you write what you are doing, the better you will remember it.

- Re-visit previously studied concepts
  Math concepts and skills build on each other, but often a particular skill is not used in consecutive chapters. By “recycling” back to material covered before, you will refresh your skills.

- Re-visit previously studied vocabulary
  When you go back to look at past concepts, do not forget to check out the vocabulary and symbols. You may want to use the Index Study System (note cards) for terms and symbols.

- Summarize concepts and procedures
  After you have completed your homework, take a few minutes to summarize in your own words what you have just finished. You will help yourself to build a stronger foundation of math if you can recite in your own words and ideas what you are doing in class.

- Re-read prior to a quiz or test.
  As you re-read sections, determine if you are able to follow the explanations and examples. Anything that is unclear should be studied a little more. Re-work the exercises and do reviews. If an online practice test is available, you may want to give yourself the extra advantage and try a couple of those problems as well.

Study smarter, not harder

The purpose of this brochure is to present you with specific steps for doing math homework that most students find more effective. Developing good study habits is one of the keys to becoming a successful learner. The more closely you follow these strategies, the more effective you will be in learning math.

Of course, attending class, paying close attention, and taking good notes are also very important. Meeting with a tutor on a weekly basis gives you the opportunity for extended practice and reinforcement.

Need more help?

Use the online scheduler on our web page to make an appointment by visiting www.avila.edu/ls, or call us at 816-501-3770.