How to Succeed in K-State Math Courses

Here is how to select the right math course to take:

• Take the online Math Placement Exam to see if you are ready for MATH 100 College Algebra, MATH 150 Trigonometry, MATH 205 General Calculus, MATH 220 Calculus I, or MATH 221 Calculus II.
• Consult your academic advisor and our Supplemental Course Descriptions.
• Make sure you have the prerequisites which are listed in the K-State Undergraduate Catalog.

Here are some important differences between high school and college level math classes:

• College level math classes cover material faster, and the farther you go the harder they get.
• There is more homework, reading, and studying to do outside class.
• A high level of continual effort is necessary to succeed.
• Faculty lecture and faculty and GTAs do problem solving recitation classes in Calculus, College Algebra, Differential Equations, and Trigonometry.

Here are some important study techniques to succeed in math classes:

• Read the assigned text material before each lecture.
• Go to each lecture and take notes.
• Review and rewrite your lecture notes as soon as possible after each lecture.
• Attempt to do the assigned problems before each recitation.
• Go to each recitation and ask questions about the assigned problems.
• Go to your recitation instructor’s office hours and ask other questions.
• Go to the Help Sessions for more help outside class.
• Write up your problem solutions and submit them.
• Correct any mistakes you made on previous homework and exams.
• Compile and review the important definitions, formulas, and theorems.
• Review the text material and your lecture notes and your corrected homework.
• Practice solving problems.
• Practice taking previous exams from the Exam Archive to help master the material and increase your thinking and problem solving speed.
• Spend at least 8 hours a week studying the material and doing problems.
• Show all your work on homework and exams to receive full credit.

Math instructors conduct Help Sessions in Cardwell 41 and Computing Lab Study Hours in Cardwell 144 for students in Calculus, College Algebra, General Calculus, Differential Equations, Applied Matrix Theory, Trigonometry, and other math courses.

The Tutoring at K-State page at http://www.k-state.edu/tutoring/ contains information about all the Walk-In Tutoring and Scheduled Tutoring on Campus. The Help for Math Courses page at https://www.math.ksu.edu/courses/help/ contains direct links to the various Math Help pages at K-State.