

Math Jam Focus Group Feedback
June 15, 2009

How are you growing and changing as a math student in Math Jam?

More confident
Higher knowledge
MESA members' experiences are inspirational for the Math Jam students.

Learning Style and Techniques
Computer test taking
Negative attitude towards math (burn out)
Less anxiety (recognizing causes/ learned to control)

More focused, made realize the importance of studying, likes the structure of the program, found own pace, learning how you learn, positive person concerning math, improved critical thinking skills, examples in the program to go over, willing to keep on learning, more motivated.

What, how to study
Managing time
Learn specific weaknesses
Review what is needed to study

Learning more things about math
Learning more shortcuts
Workshops
Learning math for the first time
Loss of a fear of fractions
Some students feel the same
Reviewed and refreshed some of the math knowledge

Refreshing my math skills
Learning to work independently
Assessment scores are improving
Math vocabulary and keywords

How are YOU developing your studying skills?

More homework exercises.
Tutors help understand problems.
Learn basic study skills.

Using what I already know about studying
Memory is getting better
Study skills help me get to a higher level
Reviewing

Become more committed with going through the study plan. Keep track of work done, actually started studying, makes easier to study at home, be quiet, do right away, not study too much, more resilient, achieve more, confidence level has gone up, discipline, analyzing more, carefully doing work.

Shows what to study
How to study (Different study skills)
Study more
Practicing more on exercise
Developing the work habit
More open to seeking help

Good refreshment on old concepts
Learning new math concepts (math tutorial)
Personal tutor helpful, working together
Going over specific questions we get wrong

Spending more time studying on things; less rushing through
Looking at past mistakes and learning how to address them
Writing out each step to solve problems

Given that you have 1 week left in Math Jam, what do you most want to do before the program ends?

Move to the next level of math.

Set realistic expectations to thoroughly understand concepts

More review a study plan

Get to next level

Get to a higher level in the placement test – move at least one level

Preparation - Use mymathtest.com and study outside of Math Jam

Get calculator

Review everything

Finish

Ask for help

Drill on passing chapters left unknown, be in smaller groups, go over test more, eliminate workshops, focus on math, quiet rooms, less distractions, more time with math program, tested more.

STOP workshops (Or optional)

More quiet study time

Finish what is started

Slow down

Manage time

More individual academic counseling

Schedule not well organize

Food (Should be better quality)

To fully refresh my math knowledge to be prepared for classes in the fall.

To place higher in the math path

To be more comfortable with math on the whole

What parts of Math Jam are working?

The tutors

Math practices in the mornings but the afternoons don't help because they are boring.

Laptops make it fun.

The math test software helps improve some aspects that students might need help with.

Lunch is excellent.

Working study sessions

Workshops

Test/study in groups

Reviewing pretests

Tutors

Instructors

Study Groups

Clarification

Encouragement from counselors

Software, scheduled studying, organized study time, resourceful, test and study plan, some workshops.

Quite study time

Practice test

Software is working well

The overall structure and the study plan in the myMathTest

The tutors are very helpful

The workshops are helpful

- time management

- financial aid

- The MESA discussion

If you could change one thing in Math Jam, what would it be? What might you change in this last week?

More time working on math problems.
More take home exercises.
Checking the work (take home work)
More confidence when the time for taking the placement test will come.

Computer/strict about answers, rigidity
Math workshop, lunch, math(space out math a little more to relieve burn out)
Too many tests a day
Keep people more focused (like for speakers)
Can't think of anything to change – working well

No/some workshops
Give different options for workshops
Ex. "Time management does not help me, but I would like a workshop on speech/communication"
Different amounts of time to study math
Ex. "I need a break every hour"
Ex. "I need more time to understand"
Move beyond the level you already studied – get more knowledge on other topics that you don't know that well
"Teachers should teach more" – give notes
Teachers should do the test first and make sure they teach the topics that are on the test
Do workshops in the morning because it is too early to do math
Having the teachers and the students take notes
More tips to study for a math tests and improve study skills
Shortcuts to solve certain problems
Closer to fall semester so I don't forget what I learned
Add levels

Workshops are too long (need to shorter or optional), glitches in software need to be fixed cause they affect grade, more math time, drilling, relevance of program to actual test, more actual test needs to be incorporated, extend from 2 weeks to more weeks to prepare, challenge you more(if you know something, move on), more instructors.

Workshops (Boring, Should be optional, Fewer)
Food
Extend the Math Jam
Calculator for each student

Not enough time to work on math. If the workshops were clipped, it would be helpful.
Alternating the workshops. Math all day on odd days, workshops in the afternoons on even days.
Prof's to review the subjects that everyone is struggling with.
Getting notebooks or binders with their names on them.