

## Outline for Study Skills in Math

### I. Finding the right math class

- A. I schedule my math class for a time when I am mentally sharp.
- B. I try to choose a class with the best instructor for me.
- C. If I have a choice, I select a math class that meets three or four days a week, instead of just once or twice.

*Discuss the following:*

- Why is it important to find a class at the right time of day for you? When do YOU focus best?
- How do you know who the “best instructor” is? What type of instructor are YOU looking for?
- Why would you want a math class that meets more frequently?

### II. In class

- A. Before class starts I read the text and review my notes
- B. I make a conscious effort to focus each class period.
- C. I don't miss any classes.

*Discuss the following:*

- Describe the difference between reading a novel or a newspaper versus reading a math textbook. How do YOU read a math textbook?
- How do you make sure you are focused for class?
- What can YOU do in case you miss class? What are your “valid” reasons for missing class?

### III. Note taking skills

- A. I take good notes in class.
- B. I have a method for taking good notes.
- C. I review my notes after class

*Discuss the following:*

- Do you take good notes?
- What kind of note taking techniques do you have?
- Do you review your notes after class? How do you do so?

#### **IV. Time and place for studying math**

- A. I try to do my math homework immediately after math class.
- B. I have a specific time and place to study math.
- C. I study in short sessions 45-65 minutes.

*Discuss the following:*

- Why is it important to do the homework right after class?
- Do YOU have a specific time and place to study? Describe a when a good time would be and the environment for a good place to study.
- Why is the amount of study time important? What is a good amount of time for YOU?

#### **V. Resources**

- A. I do my math homework in the lab where I can get help.
- B. I have a tutor.
- C. I meet with the instructor at least twice a semester to discuss my grade/progress

*Discuss the following:*

- Do you know where the Learning Center is located?
- Should you get a tutor only when you are having problems? Have you ever had a tutor?
- Have you spoken to your instructor? What might be some barriers from meeting with your instructor?

#### **VI. Preparing for tests**

- A. I review flash cards for formulas and vocabulary
- B. I develop memory techniques to remember math concepts
- C. I practice taking the test by mimicking test taking situations and time limits

*Discuss the following:*

- Give some examples of how you might use flash cards to study for math.
- Give some examples of memory techniques for studying math.
- How might you be able to take practice tests? Give some practical scenarios.

## **VII. Taking tests**

- A. I preview the whole test before I begin
- B. I begin with the easy questions first.
- C. I carefully check or rework as many problems as possible before I turn in my test.

*Discuss the following:*

- Why preview the whole test? Would this waste time?
- What is the advantage of working out the “easy” questions first? How do you “pace” yourself?
- How do you check your work? What if you are pressed for time?

## **VIII. After the test**

- A. I carefully look over my test and make sure I understand the test.
- B. I keep a log of the types of mistakes I made.
- C. I ask the instructor, tutors, or other classmates about problems I got wrong.

*Discuss the following:*

- Have you ever gotten your test back and put it away without looking at it? Why is it important to review your completed test?
- Describe a technique of keeping a log of the types of mistakes you made on the test. What types of categories of mistakes can you think of?
- Have you ever compared of answers with other students?

## **IX. Math Anxiety... in another workshop**