

Academic Success Guide

Professor Mark Elliott has written a compact handbook for math students at Clark College. It can be viewed at: web.clark.edu/math.

The Success Guide describes in detail what students should do to succeed in math classes. Here is some of Professor Elliott's advice:

- Develop a positive attitude toward mathematics
- Accept responsibility for your own education
- Learn to think critically and work to become a self-learner
- Don't over commit yourself
- Make an outstanding effort from the beginning
- Attend all classes, arriving on time or early
- Follow the explanations in class and ask questions
- Improve your listening and note-taking skills
- Work out homework problems on time
- Learn to check your work
- Get help outside of class
- Read your textbook carefully and regularly
- Schedule your study time
- Always aim for 100% when you prepare for tests

DIVISION OF MATHEMATICS

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Clark College The Next Step

the keys to

Math Success



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Are You in the Right Math Class?

Pre-College-Level Classes

There are two sequences of pre-college-level algebra courses. Both offer a route to college-level math courses, but the **main difference is that the 090/095 sequence moves at an accelerated pace.** If you got a B-, C+ or C in Math 030 or if you haven't taken math in a long time, the Math 089/091/093 sequence should give you the foundation you'll need to succeed in college-level math classes later. Students who complete Math 093 do **not** need to take Math 095 before enrolling in college-level math classes.

What's the difference between 090/095 and 089/091/093?

First Quarter MATH 090	Second Quarter MATH 095	
First Quarter MATH 089	Second Quarter MATH 091	Third Quarter MATH 093

College-Level Classes

Here's the scoop on math classes you may take after completing Math 093 or 095 with a "C" or better:

MATH 103 (College Trigonometry)

Engineering students and many Science students are required to take this course. This course, along with Math 111, is a prerequisite for Math& 151.

MATH 105 (Finite Mathematics)

This course is applications-oriented and is required of most Business students as well as Economics students. Students in Computer Science and Social Sciences will find much of the material useful as well. (*Note: Either Math 105 or Math 111 is a pre-requisite to Math& 148.*)

Don't wait to take your college-level Mathematics courses! If possible, take them as soon as you have finished Math 093 or 095.

MATH& 107 (Math in Society)

This course is designed for Liberal Arts students. Math& 107 students should have a solid knowledge of the basic material covered in Pre-, Elementary, and Intermediate Algebra courses and should be prepared to use this material without extensive review during the course. Individual topics and assignments will vary at the discretion of the instructor.

MATH 111 (College Algebra)

This is a **challenging, demanding, technical, fast-paced** course designed for students who have a **strong** background in Elementary and Intermediate Algebra. It is primarily intended for students who will major in Mathematics, Engineering, Computer Science or the Physical Sciences. This course, along with Math 103, is a prerequisite for Math& 151.

MATH 122 (Mathematics for Elementary Teachers)

This is the first term of a specialized and rigorous course sequence designed for students preparing to become elementary or middle school teachers. This course studies elementary mathematics from an advanced viewpoint and includes substantial writing and problem-solving components. Students should schedule a consultation with a current Math 122 instructor before enrolling in the course.

MATH 135 (Modeling Energy Dynamics In Everyday Life)

This three-credit course introduces basic mathematical models related to energy use, with emphasis on the role of these models in everyday life. Students develop and analyze models of energy use and cost in home heating, home lighting and food consumption. Completion of Biology 101 recommended (but not required) before enrolling in the course.

MATH 203 (Descriptive Statistics)

This three-credit course is appropriate for students in Education, Journalism, Technical Writing, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences, and Health Sciences. (Business students should take BUS 203.) This course covers basic topics from descriptive statistics and probability. Most students follow it with Math 204, Inferential Statistics.

Where to get Math Help

Math Help Center & Women in STEM* (WIS) Math Help Center

*STEM = Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics

Math Help Center is a drop-in help center where faculty and math aides can assist you with all levels of mathematics. It is a **free** service that runs from the first week of class through the end of final exam week, and includes day, evening and weekend hours. *Location:* BHL 107.

Women in STEM Math Help Center is similar to the Help Center described above, but takes place in a quieter atmosphere that is more conducive to individual studying. All helpers are women but the centers are open to all students—male or female. Centers begin on Monday of the second week of the term. *Location:* BHL 013.

Math Help Center Schedules and WIS Help Center Schedules are posted throughout Bauer Hall, the Math office (BHL 115), and available online at web.clark.edu/math.

When you visit either of these Help Centers, please make sure you sign in, as we track student usage to justify funding support.

STEM High-Demand Tutoring

The STEM Unit provides **free** individual and small group tutoring for astronomy, chemistry, physics, engineering and mathematics. *Location:* Pechanec Hall, APH 101. The STEM High-Demand tutoring schedule is posted throughout Bauer Hall, the Math office (BHL 115), the Science office (APH 203), and available online at web.clark.edu/math.

Information on all STEM Help Centers is also available online at www.clark.edu/academics/programs/stem/STEMHelpCenters.php.

Math Success Sessions

Contact Paul Casillas

(360) 992-2545 • pcasillas@clark.edu

Math Success Sessions are held near the middle of each quarter. These **free** sessions are designed to help students of all levels succeed in math classes. The sessions cover students' attitudes, in-class and at-home study skills, test-taking strategies, and use of college-wide resources. Once the sessions are scheduled, announcements will be posted throughout Bauer Hall, as well as online at web.clark.edu/math.

Tutoring & Writing Center

Hawkins Hall 102-103 (360) 992-2253

AA4 106 (360) 992-2461

www.etutoring.org

Tutoring services are available **free** of charge to all registered Clark College students. Tutors are recommended by faculty, and provide help in mathematics as well as many other subject areas. You are encouraged to visit the Tutoring Center early in the quarter to request help.

Individual Mathematics

Instructors

Faculty members hold office hours during the quarter. Refer to your class syllabus, ask your instructor, or check the Schedule Binder on the front counter in the Math office for times. This is a good opportunity to get help outside of class. To take full advantage of office hours, prepare a list of questions to ask. Remember, your instructor is here to help you. If you can't meet your instructor during his/her office hours, ask if you can arrange another time to meet.

Multimedia Help

Most textbooks have supplementary multimedia instructional aids such as DVDs, computer software, etc. Some even have video presentations of lectures. The Math Help Center (BHL 107) has video lectures from some courses for viewing. Other multimedia aids are available in the Cannell Library or for purchase in the Bookstore. Check your textbook or with your instructor to see what is available for your course.

Graphing Calculator

Unsure how to operate your graphing calculator? Professor Chris Milner created tutorial videos for the TI-84 graphing calculator that are available at web.clark.edu/math. If you want more in-depth information, you can purchase *The TI-84 Survival Guide* at the Clark College Bookstore. Written by Professor John Mitchell, this booklet is clear and easy to understand.

Other Services

Student Success Workshops

(360) 992-2155

Are you committed to ensuring your success at Clark? Student Success Sessions are held each quarter in Gaiser Hall. Topics include "Note-Taking for College Success," "Stress Management," "Stop Procrastinating!" and others. These sessions are **free**, and the quarterly schedule is posted on the Math Division bulletin boards in Bauer Hall, as well as online at www.clark.edu/student_services/employment/career_classes.php.

Student Life

Penguin Union Building

(360) 992-2441

If you need information or assistance from other campus or community resources, contact the Student Life office.

Disability Support Services

Gaiser Hall, Room 137

(360) 992-2314

(360) 992-2835 (TTY)

If you have a disability requiring any auxiliary aids, services, or other accommodations, be sure to contact the Disability Support Services office right away. You may also wish to inform your instructor.

Clark College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, political affiliation, creed, disabled veteran status, marital status, honorably discharged veteran or Vietnam-era veteran status in its programs and activities.

Repeating a Class

If you are repeating a course because you didn't do well the first time, be sure to fill out a Repeated Course Form at the Registrar's Office after you complete the course on your second attempt. The Registrar will then re-compute your overall GPA using the second grade instead of the first.

Note: If you received a "W" (withdrawal) on your first attempt, you do not need to fill out a Repeated Course Form.

Some Questions to Ask Yourself

Sometimes things don't go well and you get a bad grade on a test, quiz, etc. Here are some questions you can ask yourself to see what went wrong. Answer them honestly; only you can initiate change for the better.

1. Did you really know the material covered on the test, quiz, etc?
2. Did you spend enough time studying for the test, quiz, etc.?
3. Do you really know effective study techniques?
4. Did you seek help as soon as you needed it?
5. Do you have a positive attitude about succeeding in math?
6. Do you really understand the prerequisite material?
7. Is there too much lag time between your last math class and this one?