



# Academic Support Center

## A Guide for Studying Math

Math is different than any other subject. It is objective, employs specific procedures, involves symbols and formulas, and it has a vocabulary all of its own. Consequently, the study skills you need to succeed in math might also be different from other subjects.

### Some Important Math Study Skills

Math requires actively doing. Consequently, to learn math you must do all your homework and assignments. If you don't do your homework or complete your assignments, you won't memorize the formulas or learn the procedures required to become really proficient in math.

- Math is a very sequential subject. What you learn one day builds on what you learned previously and is required for future learning. It's like building blocks. If you miss any of the building blocks, you can't progress. This is why with math it is so easy for students to fall behind in if they miss school or don't do their homework on time. Cramming will do very little to help you pass math tests.
- Math becomes increasingly complex or more difficult over time. Consequently, many students have to spend more time studying math than they do other subjects in order to succeed in this subject.
- Math involves so many formulas, equations, and procedures that it can be difficult to remember everything. Don't try and memorize everything. Instead, focus on developing a good understanding of all the major concepts when they are taught.
- Many mathematical procedures for solving a problem can be used to solve other math problems. As you progress in your math, try and apply what you've learned previously to each new problem you encounter.
- As we mentioned, math has a vocabulary all of its own. Additionally, many commonly used words have different meanings when used in association with math. You might want to create a math vocabulary log where you note down and define each new math vocabulary term you encounter.
- Ask for help from your teacher, a tutor, or another student if you need it.