

## Becoming Math Learners

### Beginnings of a Math Course

1. Ask and record, instructor's office hours and phone numbers.
2. Join a study group that meets regularly.
3. Find all the resources on campus that will support the learner in the math class; use the Academic Support Center other students and the instructor as sources of information.
4. Search our math books in the library that related to the math course you are taking.

### In the Classroom

1. Attend every class.
2. Read ahead so that you have an idea of what the instructor will be teaching in class.
3. Keep up with the instructor in class, writing only important things in your notes.
4. Ask questions.
5. Do the "Making Connections" strategy at the end of class.

### Doing Assignments

1. Read the text, noting new terms and studying the examples.
2. Read your class notes and jot down any questions.
3. When you get "stuck" on a problem:
  - a. Don't give up.
  - b. Use all your resources.
  - c. Work through a similar example.
  - d. Ask your instructor, a classmate or find some other resource before the next class.

### Taking a Math Test

Pre: Follow the suggestions given above.

Be sure you have been able to do each assignment.

Reverse the time factor. Give yourself a little less time at home than you would have in the exam.

Compile a set of index cards. Use the concepts you listed in the "Making Connections" strategy. They can act as "Cue Cards" by writing a formula definition, or a problem on the front and the answer on the back. Be sure to number the cards and then mix them up to test yourself.

During: Write something as soon as you get the test, such as a definition, formula, or rule.

Survey the test and budget your time. Begin the test working on problems with which you are secure. Remember, you do not need to work the test in the order that the problems appear.

If you begin to tense up, practice some relaxation exercises such as forgetting the test for a few moments and thinking of a pleasant experience. This is not a waste of time; but it puts you back in control of the test-taking situation.

Post: Analyze the test

Did the content of test come from:

1. Class notes
2. Assignments
3. Textbook

Did your errors come from

1. Carelessness
2. Unknown material

This will help you to prepare for the next exam.