



## Strategies for Success in College Math

We've met with many students who struggle with college-level math. We understand that math can be challenging. Here are a few tips that you can utilize throughout the semester.

### Studying on your own

- Create a study routine, including finding a quiet study space and creating a consistent study schedule. Try to commit to studying at least two hours per class hour. **For more information on study skills, please see *Study Skills Tip Sheet* on [www.cpcc.edu/star](http://www.cpcc.edu/star)**
- **Read your textbook before each class.** The goal isn't to understand the material the first time you read it. The goal is for you to have an idea of what the instructor plans to discuss.
- Remember, math is a cumulative subject. **This means that each math lesson builds upon the previous lesson. Make sure you understand the current math concept before moving to the next concept.**
- The best way to build your math skills is to **practice. Always complete your homework.**
- When practicing math problems on your own, try using this **four-step approach**:
  - First, **identify the problem** and understand what the problem requires you to do.
  - **Develop a plan** for solving the problem.
  - **Solve the problem.** Write out the entire solution in as much detail as possible. **Show your work.**
  - **Review** your solution and check for accuracy. If necessary, **rework** the problem.

### During and after class

- **Attend every class.** This is especially true if math is a difficult subject for you.
- **Actively participate in class.** Ask questions. Take notes.
  - Make sure your notes are legible and neat, so you can review them later. Write down specific examples of problems that your instructor completes in class.
- After class, **review your notes each day.**
- **Utilize your resources.**
  - Visit your instructor during office hours if you need additional guidance.
  - The ALC here at CPCC offers free tutoring for developmental math and Math 110-285. **Find the ALC on a CPCC campus near you [here](#).**
  - Join a study group if necessary.

### Preparing for exams

- **Don't cram.** Start studying early.
- **Identify the type of test** that it will be. Multiple choice, word problems/short answer, etc. **What information will be on the test?** Is the test covering a specific chapter? Is it cumulative?
- Remember, **completing your math homework is key to preparing for an exam.** Review old tests, notes, and complete practice problems. Your textbook will likely have a review section, also.

**If you have additional questions, feel free to call to speak with a STAR coach at 704-330-6754 or email [star.success@cpcc.edu](mailto:star.success@cpcc.edu). Check out the rest of our tip sheets on our website <http://www.cpcc.edu/star>.**