



# Student Success Office

## Peer Tips for Success

# MTH 154

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### **What makes a successful student in MTH 154?**

- Pace yourself. Work Ahead. Plan accordingly throughout the week.
- Create a schedule for getting things done, take thorough notes during lectures, if possible, always revisit old HW for a better grade, email the teacher when you have issues, and DON'T PUT OFF GETTING HELP!
- Use a planner or a calendar to keep up with deadlines
- Stay ahead on your work
- Don't push all of the assignments due in one week until the end of the week
- Ask questions on how to do calculations on the calculator. Give yourself time to do the homework, ask questions!
- I didn't already have a graphing calculator, sourcing that ahead of time would be a good idea. I spent some time on Khan Academy before the semester started, relearning some arithmetic at whatever level I could handle, and that helped me feel a little more prepared. And plan to get started on the week's assignments right away so you can take your time to learn it well and work through it. Math doesn't cram well!

### **When concepts get hard, what strategy do you use to overcome?**

- I struggle at math so the class in general is hard but I enjoy the lay out of how the homework is done.
- Since I am not the best at math I found it helpful to look over PowerPoint many times to help me understand.
- Dedicate alone time away from distractions to focus on an assignment at a time.
- I would just email the professor or a fellow classmate, if it's really dire I would sometimes look up a how-to video on Khan Academy or some other educational website, but your professor is your first and most valuable resource.
- Go through the powerpoints and homework assignment again until you understand the concept
- Meet with the instructor to figure it out
- Repeat. Repeat. Repeat. And finally ask my professor (and she was great!)

### **When you got an unfavorable grade in the class, what caused it?**

- Make sure to follow the syllabus. Grades are deducted for late work.
- I don't have the greatest math skills so it was helpful to me to be able to try again on some math questions. I don't do the best at math so being able to try doing math problems multiple times helped a lot. I suggest going to get as much help as you can to be able to do well.
- Most of my downfalls were just due to stupid, avoidable mistakes on my part (like forgetting to add parenthesis or missing a negative sign). Always double check your work!
- I waited too late in the week to complete the work well.
- I've started my work in plenty of time so I could work through it carefully. There are lots of chances with the homework, so that's my best strategy... allow plenty of time. That definitely keeps the grades up.

### **Final words of encouragement you can share peer to peer.**

- You got this, it's just math :)D

- Don't be afraid to ask for help
- Try your hardest and if that doesn't work keep trying.
- Real basic course if you have a basic understanding of math and order of operations.
- Don't be afraid to reach out to your teacher, or even fellow classmates, if you're experiencing difficulties in the course. It's always daunting talking to a teacher, they may intimidate you a bit, especially so with online classes - the added stress of not knowing when (in some cases if you'll hear back from them) can make it even more difficult, but it's necessary if you wish to get a good grade and something valuable out of the course. Also, once you've done it you'll feel so much better for making that leap.
- Stay ahead on all assignments.
- I haven't taken math since the mid-90s in high school, and I almost failed then. Needless to say, I've been dreading this for a while. I'm actually feeling so much better about my capabilities, now that I have a caring teacher, and a lot of encouragement from her as we go through the modules. Take the class from a teacher you understand well, who teaches the way you understand best. Be kind to yourself. Allow plenty of time. Stay positive. Ask questions! Ask for help when you need it!