

# Steps for Studying for a Math Test



## Step 1 – Gather your materials

- Textbook
- Class notes
- Quizzes, previous exams
- Homework
- Study guide/ practice tests (if given)
- Paper and pencil

## Step 2 – Actively read through your class notes

- Notes contain the most important pieces of information that your teacher wants you to know about a topic
- Study actively and highlight any vocabulary words and important formulas
- Create flashcards for vocabulary words and formulas
- Use sticky notes to mark important concepts that need more attention and those that you may need to ask in class or in the Math Lab

## Step 3 – Retake quizzes and/or practice tests and redo homework

- Pay close attention to those problems that you missed the first time. This will allow you to see what problems you are struggling with.
- If you find that you are making the same mistake
  - Look back at your notes or in your textbook for examples like the problem you're struggling with
  - This is a great time to visit the Math Lab, the tutors can help you identify your mistake
- If you run into a math problem that you don't understand, write it down on a separate sheet of paper and note what you don't understand about the problem. A Math Lab tutor will be better able to help you when you have specific questions.
- Write down formulas for a problem each time you need to use one. If you write out the formula each time you need it, you will know it and this saves you time from memorizing it.

## Step 4 – Create a quiz – Do this at least 2 days before the test

- On a clean sheet of paper, write down the most challenging odd numbered problems from the textbook and those worked out in class.
- Complete the problems and check your answers.
- The Math Lab is open 6 days a week for when you come across a problem that you cannot figure out.

## Step 5 – Make a study sheet

- Imagine you were able to take in one sheet of notes to help you on the test, what would you write?
- List main concepts from each section. Make sure you know how to solve problems involving these concepts.
- This makes you think about the material you'll be tested on and what you still need to review.
- By writing it down, you're reviewing what you need

**The Math Lab is located on the first floor of Westside Hall.  
Drop-in tutoring is available 6 days a week**

Other tips to keep in mind.....

- Start preparing as soon as possible!
- Studying a little each night allows you to try different strategies and allows you time to ask questions before the test
- Understand how a formula is derived rather than just memorizing it
- **Join a study group.** Different people see concepts in different ways, another perspective on a concept may help you comprehend it. Explaining concepts to others will help you reinforce your mastery of the information.
- Use online resources. A few great resources are...
  - <http://www.mathtv.com>
  - <http://tutorial.math.lamar.edu>
  - <http://www.hippocampus.org/>
  - <http://www.math.com>
  - <http://www.purplemath.com/>
  - <http://graph.seriesmathstudy.com/>
  - <http://webgraphing.com/>

