

PREPARING FOR AND TAKING MATH EXAMS

BEFORE THE TEST

BEGIN TO PREPARE EARLY

- Pay attention during class: every minute you spend distracted in class results in many more minutes of studying later. Put social media away for a while... it can wait.
- Remember that math is cumulative. Think of it as a building process, and in order to understand the next step you need to comprehend the present, and previous ones.
- Math courses follow a natural progression – each one builds upon the knowledge you've gained and mastered previously.
- Do homework...Even when it's not assigned. You can usually find assignments in your textbook with answers, and online resources like ones linked on the PARC website can be a good source of practice problems.
- Talk to yourself when you are reviewing notes after each class. When you are studying for an exam, try to explain out loud what strategy and methods you used to get your solutions.

SIMULATE STUDY CONDITIONS

- After you have studied and think you know the material, practice it under test conditions.
- Solve unassigned homework problems and see if you can finish them in the allotted time for the exam.

KNOW YOUR PROFESSOR

- Study a copy of the exam of a previous class if available.
- Talk with someone who taken the professor before, preferably someone who has succeeded in the same class

FORM A STUDY GROUP OF 3-4 DEDICATED STUDENTS

- Not only will other students be able to help you with problems, but by helping others you will better learn the material
- If you are unable to teach another student a topic, chances are you don't know that topic very well after all.

DURING THE TEST

READ EVERYTHING CAREFULLY

- Before you do anything, read through the whole exam. You will know what is expected of you; you can prioritize items on the test; and will you able to pace yourself accordingly.
- Read the instructions for each question. Even if you know how to solve a problem, misreading or misinterpreted the question itself can lead you to a wrong answer.
- Check that you have correctly rewritten the problem. If you use scratch paper, make sure it is correct there, too.

TAKE IT ONE STEP AT A TIME

- Don't skip steps - start from the beginning and write out each step of the solution.
- Be neat and don't rush writing numbers down.
- Double check your work

DON'T DILLY DALLY

- If you get stuck on a problem move on and come back to it.
- When you are finished, recheck all your work.

Check out these topics also available in this series.

[Effective Test Taking Strategies](#)

[Five Day Test Preparation](#)

[Self Help Study Strategies and Tips](#)

Major in you.

PARKSIDE ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER
The Commons, Wyllie Hall D1
parc@uwp.edu | uwp.edu/PARC

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN **PARKSIDE**