

Study Groups

Do you have a group of fellow students that you study with on a regular basis? If not, consider forming a study group. Often another student can explain math in a way that really helps you to understand it. Perhaps you are the student that can explain math to others. This is an excellent way to solidify what you have learned.

Where can you find other students to form a study group? A good place to start is this MARC class. You are probably sitting with students who have the same instructor you have. Are there two or three that you work with well? Ask them to form a regular study group. If your instructor often does group work in class you may know a few students in your math class well. Perhaps those students would be good for forming a group.

Keep these ideas in mind when forming and working with a study group:

1. The ideal size for a study group is 3-5 students.
2. Establish what to bring to each session (book, notes, homework, etc).
3. Agree to come prepared and on time.
4. Complete all agreed upon tasks prior to the meeting.
5. Assign a leader (and maybe a time-keeper, recorder).
6. Establish standards for attendance, notification for emergency absence.
7. Don't use group time to substitute for attendance in class.
8. Compare homework.
9. Compare class notes.
10. Review returned tests and compare solutions.
11. Create sample quizzes for each other.
12. Brainstorm possible quiz and test questions.
13. Hold sessions at the MARC or library.
14. Encourage participation by all.
15. Be willing and able to explain procedures, work and concepts to others.

16. Actively participate during sessions. Ask questions and answer the questions of other group members. Work together for understanding of the material.
17. Provide assistance, support and encouragement to group members.
18. Assess the use of group time. Is the time well spent? (Is there too much social time? Is there too much work being required?)
19. Listen carefully to all group members.
20. Limit criticism to constructive suggestions.
21. Seek help from a tutor or instructor when disagreement or difficulties arise.
22. Celebrate successes!

