

Study Skills in Action

Studying in a Group

Many students endure unnecessary frustration because they study by themselves. Studying in a group or with a partner has many benefits. First, the combined memory and comprehension of the members minimizes the likelihood of any member getting “stuck” on a particular problem. Second, discussing math often helps clarify unclear areas. Third, regular study groups keep many students from procrastinating. Finally, study groups often build a camaraderie that helps students stick with the course when it gets tough.



These students are keeping each other motivated.

Smart Study Strategy

Form a Weekly Study Group

- 1 ► **Set up the group.**
 - Select students who are just as dedicated to doing well in the math class as you are.
 - Find a regular meeting place on campus that has minimal distractions. Try to find a place that has a white board.
 - Compare schedules, and select at least one time a week to meet, allowing at least 1.5 hours for study time.
- 2 ► **Organize the study time.** If you are unsure about how to structure your time during the first few study sessions, try using the guidelines at the right.
- 3 ► **Set up rules for the group.** Consider using the following rules.
 - Members must attend regularly, be on time, and participate.
 - The sessions will focus on the key math concepts, not on the needs of one student.
 - Students who skip classes will not be allowed to participate in the study group.
 - Students who keep the group from being productive will be asked to leave the group.
- 4 ► **Inform the instructor.** Let the instructor know about your study group. Ask for advice about maintaining a productive group.

- *Review and compare notes - 20 minutes*
- *Identify and review the key rules, definitions, etc. - 20 minutes*
- *Demonstrate at least one homework problem for each key concept - 40 minutes*
- *Make small talk (saving this until the end improves your chances of getting through all the math) - 10 minutes*