

## Studying for Math

1. Attend class and take complete notes. Listen actively and ask questions when you don't understand.
2. Math concepts build. Missing a class puts you behind. Missing several classes is difficult to overcome. Go to class.
3. Do the homework. Math is learned by doing.
4. Math is best learned in short, frequent sessions. For success, students must review math notes, problems, and assignments every day. An hour a day reinforces the learning that takes place in class. Cramming before a test is not recommended.
5. Overlearning is an effective strategy. Practice problems beyond initial understanding.
6. Go to the math lab or to your professor and ask for help.
7. Use online resources such as [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org) or [cool-math.com](http://cool-math.com)
8. Your success in math depends on your commitment.

## The Math Lab

The Mathematics Laboratory provides students with assistance and tutoring for general math topics as well as specific problems or questions.

Tutors are available on a walk-in basis or by appointment.

For an appointment, call 580-581-2484.

**Location: Burch Hall, Room 104**  
**Hours: Monday through Thursday**  
**8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**  
**Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**  
**Saturday & Sunday Closed**

**Location: Academic Commons Tutoring Lab**  
**Hours: Monday through Thursday**  
**5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**  
**Friday Closed**  
**Sunday: 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

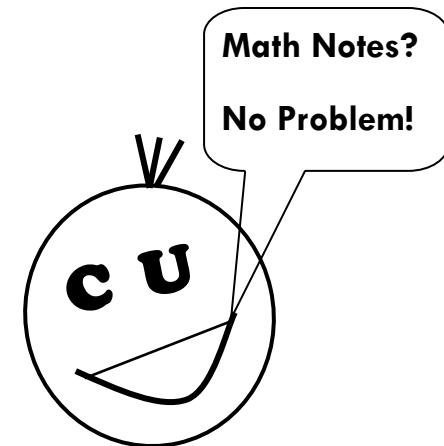


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SKILLS & STRATEGIES  
FOR *YOUR* SUCCESS

## Two Column Note Taking for Math Class



Math Strategies

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## TWO-COLUMN NOTE TAKING for MATH

### General Note Taking Guidelines

1. Keep notes for each class in separate locations. You may use a three-ring binder, a folder, or a spiral notebook.
2. Write on one side of the paper only. For math notes, use a pencil.
3. Leave white space. Do not make notes too dense. You may want to go back and add details or revise.
4. Keep practicing. Note taking is a skill that must be learned and practiced.
5. Stay positive. Saying, "I can't do math," can be self-fulfilling. Having a can-do attitude helps.
6. Be patient. Remember you are learning and growing. A little frustration is to be expected.

### Step One: Prepare Paper

- A. Divide notebook paper into three sections.
- B. At the top of the page, write the section of the book the notes cover and/or topic.
- C. Leave five to six lines at the bottom of the page for additional notes, a summary, key ideas, or questions.

### Step Two: Take Notes

- A. During the professor's demonstration of the problem, copy the steps on the left side of the page.
- B. When the professor explains the steps, write the explanation on the right side of the paper.

### Step Three: Summarize

- A. At the bottom of the page record any key ideas, formulas, hints, questions, or a summary.

### Step Four: Review Notes

- A. Review your notes regularly.
- B. Refer to notes when working through homework problems.
- C. Say the steps out loud.
- D. Revise notes as needed to clarify understanding.

Chapter 1, Section 4  
pages 49-62

Susie Derkins  
1/21/2014

①  $5x - 2 = 13$

①  $x =$  variable  
What is problem "saying"?  
- multiplying  $x$  by 5  
- and subtracting 2  
- equals 13

② 
$$\begin{array}{r} 5x - 2 = 13 \\ +2 \quad +2 \\ \hline 5x = 15 \end{array}$$

② Add two to both sides to "undo" the subtraction because  $5x$  needs to be isolated.

③ 
$$\begin{array}{r} 5x = 15 \\ \underline{5 \quad 5} \\ x = 3 \end{array}$$

③ Divide both sides by 5 to isolate  $x$ .

④  $x = 3$

④ Solution for  $x$ .

Key Ideas:

1. Operations must be applied to both sides of the equation.  
2. Inverse operation reverses the effect of another operation.  
For example: Addition and Subtraction are inverse operations.