

How to Practice for a Math Exam

1. Actively study your lecture notes and material from your textbook. Practice the “rule of 3” – for every hour you spend learning the material in class, spend three hours outside of class reviewing the material.
2. Make a list of important concepts and formulas that you find in your notes and the textbook. Connect these with the information your professor highlights in class. Make sure you know the formulas that you will be expected to use AND how to use them.
3. Rework problems that you encountered in class and from your textbook. Math is an active process, and you will get better at it the more you practice it.
4. Take a practice exam. Try to challenge yourself. Go through the practice sections in your textbook and work on them until you get every question right. Write your own questions that assess your knowledge of the information in a variety of ways.
5. Come to the SSC for tutoring. If you are having trouble with some of the concepts, the tutors at the Student Success Center are here to help you. Their help is best utilized if you come in early and often. Waiting until the day of your exam to come in for help is not the way to go.
6. Get a good night’s sleep and eat a healthy breakfast. Don’t try to cram half a semester’s worth of material into one night of studying. Instead, follow these steps and, on the night before your exam, rest easy knowing you are well prepared. When you wake up in the morning, eat a healthy breakfast. Your brain needs nutrients to work efficiently and help you get the grade you’ve worked for.
7. After the exam, continue to study and review the material. Math concepts build on one another, so you’ll still need to know this information for the next exam.

***Important: Remember to bring pencils, paper, and scantron/bluebook (if necessary) to the exam.**