

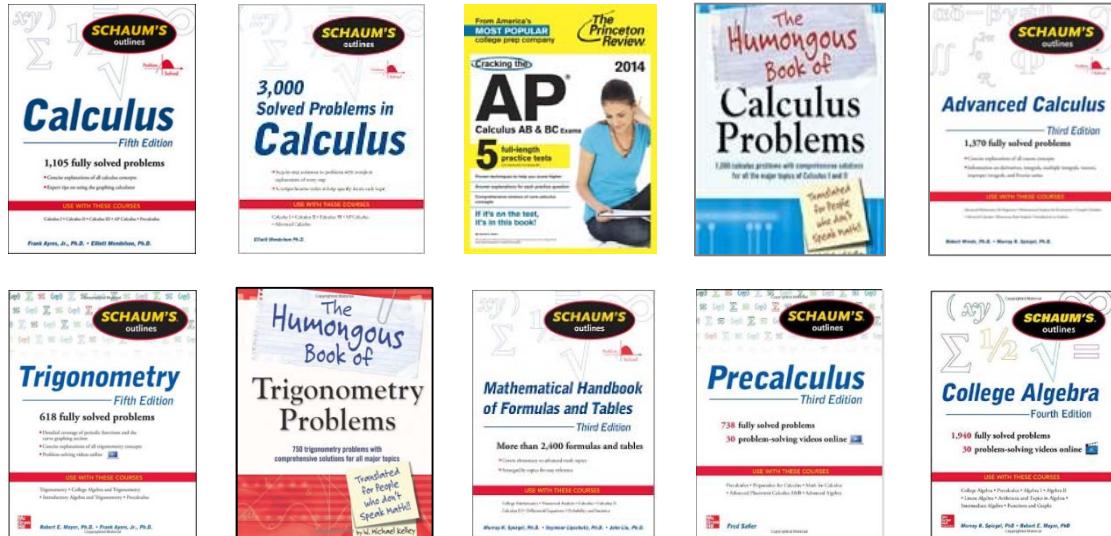
Being Successful in an Upper Level Math Class

Steps

1. Read the appropriate sections of the textbook before every class.
2. Pay attention and take notes during class.
3. Read the appropriate sections of the textbook again after every class.
4. Get comfortable with your graphing calculator.
5. Review materials from www.mathguy.us and/or other websites to see if they are helpful.
6. Do homework every night.
 - a. Review your notes from class
 - b. Try to do all of your homework the day of class.
 - c. Use the second day to investigate any remaining issues that you do not understand.
 - d. Use the second day to do any remaining homework.
 - e. If you have time, read ahead in the textbook.
7. Get help during lunch and/or IC to help with anything you do not understand.
8. Form study groups to help each other get better.
9. Before a test:
 - a. Review all notes and all of the examples from class.
 - b. Review the sample tests and make sure you can do every problem on your own.
 - c. Ask for help with any problems that you do not understand.

Summary: Do whatever is necessary to learn the material. Too many students limit the time they spend learning rather than expanding the time they spend in order to learn the material well.

Helpful Books



Ten Common Errors on Math Tests

Small Things that make a Big Difference in Your Test Score

Common Error		Suggestions for Improvement
1	Trying to "eyeball" the problem.	Take the time to work out the problem on paper. Show your work so it is easier for you to check.
2	Missing signs or using the wrong signs (+ vs. -), especially when subtracting negative numbers.	Be extra careful to use the proper signs when doing your work. Check signs carefully again after you have completed the test.
3	Pattern of signs in polynomials (in simple multiplication or division).	Check the pattern in the answer against the patterns in the original polynomials.
4	Silly math errors.	Re-check all math calculations, especially coefficients of terms in polynomials.
5	Copying the answer incorrectly from your work paper to the answer line on the test.	Carefully check that you have copied the answer correctly to the answer line. This is an easy thing to check after you have completed the test.
6	Ignoring units for the numerical answers to word problems.	Check the units of items in the question. Make sure you include units in the answers to all word problems.
7	Finishing the math but not answering the question.	Reread the problem after you finish the math and make sure your answer relates directly to the question being asked.
8	Stopping the problem when you get your answer.	Reread the problem to be sure you have answered the question it asks. Try to check your work using an independent method (e.g., check answers to polynomial divisions by using multiplication).
9	Skipping a step.	Take the time to work carefully through the steps you have learned to solve the problem. Review each step you took when you check your answers after completing the test.
10	Getting an answer that does not make sense.	Think about your answer. Is it reasonable? If not, re-check your work. There is probably an easy correction in your math.