Ten keys to being a successful college math student:

1. As Woody Allen once said “The most important thing in life is showing up”. On any given day you may have many temptations to do other things besides being in class. Why come to class? First, you will learn more and I will not go back over material for you in class because you missed the last class day. Second, good attendance might count when you need the benefit of a doubt when it comes to assigning grades. Keep this benefit!

2. **Prepare for class.** Read the material BEFORE you come to class. This way, in-class lecture material will be more of a review.

3. **Don’t confuse note-taking with stenography.** You cannot possibly write down everything that is said in class and concentrate at the same time. Develop your own personal short-hand. Fill in details later. Tape the class if you wish.

4. **Participate in class.** No matter what your career, the ability to speak comfortably in a group is a huge benefit. Besides, your instructor will quickly learn that you are interested in the class.

5. **Spend time studying almost every night (or day).** Study in a place with no distractions. Focus on learning the material, not on cramming facts to be regurgitated on the next exam. Learning implies understanding, retaining, integrating and applying the knowledge you acquire. Focus on learning the material, rather than on achieving a grade on an exam. Doing this will reduce stress late in the semester. If you have truly learned the material, grades tend to take care of themselves.

6. **Final exams are a losing proposition.** Do not put yourself in the situation where you have to do well on the final exam in order to pass.

7. Take advantage of the opportunity to learn the art of written and oral communication. In mathematics, communication is as important as knowledge. Possessing knowledge is only one-half of the equation, the other half is having the ability to convey your knowledge to others in precise and concise terms, both verbally and in writing.

8. **Learn as much outside the classroom as inside.**

9. Make a **personal commitment** to lifelong learning. More than anything, this will help you become a better person as well as better at whatever you decide to do with your life.

10. **Study with other people.** Surround yourself with people who want to do well in the course. Quickly abandon study groups whose main purpose is something other than success in class.

**Calculation of the final grade:**

- Average of 4 regular exams and Maple average if you are a Maple student: 60% of final average
- Problem of the day: 15% of final average
- Final Exam: 25% of final average

An explanation of each grade follows:

**Problem of the day**

At the beginning of each class period I will ask you to work and turn in at least one problem from the previous day’s homework. Each will be graded on a 5 point basis. Note that these “quizzes” will always be given at the beginning of class each day.
Exams
You will have four exams during the semester. When calculating your final average I will replace the lowest of the test grades with your final exam grade if it is higher and if you have made at least a 70 on the final. The Maple Lab grade cannot be replaced. Your exams are scheduled on the following dates:
Exam 1: September 20  Exam 2: October 11
Exam 3: November 1   Exam 4: November 29
You will have a comprehensive final exam. Hard work during the semester is the best possible preparation for this exam. Final exams are scheduled the week of December 10. Please contact me if you must miss an exam. Sometimes accommodations can be made if you have a good reason to miss.

Missing an Exam
In general make-ups are not allowed for work that is missed. However, if you have a good reason to miss an exam you must call me as soon as possible. A make-up exam will not be given after graded exams have been returned. The final exam grade will be substituted in place of the missed grade.

Withdrawing From Class
I reserve the right to drop any student with 3 or more unexcused absences. Please be in class and do not get in the habit of missing or being late. These habits will be detrimental to your success in this course.

Calculators
I encourage you to use a calculator during class and on your homework. I will use graphing calculators throughout the semester as an aid to understanding concepts. The department owns classroom sets of TI-83+ graphing calculators. I will bring these in to the room fairly often. On exams you must use my calculators. You may not use your own personal calculator on an exam. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

Cell Phones, Beepers etc.
It is very rude to leave a beeper or phone in the “ring” mode and have it go off during class. Please turn all such devices off or do not bring them into class at all. If you have a cell phone with you it is to remain in a purse or backpack at all times. Having a cell phone out during an exam will be considered a violation of the Academic Honesty Policy below.

Academic Honesty and Class Honor Code
Unless you are notified beforehand, collaboration with others on any graded work is prohibited. Violations of this policy will result in a 0 for that work. Commit yourself to acting honorably in class: do not distract others, think for a second before asking questions in class, be on time, fairly and honestly assess your own performance in class, do not pay attention to how others are doing in class, take ownership of your successes and your failures, get help immediately if you are lost or fall behind, take responsibility for getting caught up if you miss class, only miss class when you cannot avoid it, in each class you take learn your instructor’s name, use the proper title when addressing your instructor, only use their first names if they specifically tell you to do so, show respect for your instructor and classmates, and be truthful any time you deal with your instructor or classmates. Honor is a two-way street. As your instructor I commit to acting honorably as I work with you in class.

Honors Projects
Students who wish to experience a more challenging look at using calculus may wish to sign an Honors Contract and complete an Honors Project. This project will involve quite a bit of time and energy. Students will get to work in collaborative teams on a project that forces students to operate outside of the typical classroom experience. Students will also work more closely with the Honors mentor (me!!) This is not for everyone. Students should have completed Calculus I and II with an A and be doing well in Calculus III. (make an A on the first exam). The project will be assigned just after the first exam. Students will work about 9 or 10 weeks and present the finished product, both in class and during Honors Day.