

Fundamentals of Math
----------------------

Math 811 AA  
Daily 8:10 - 9:00

Instructor: Rick Hough  
Phone #: 738-4193

Website: <http://www.smccd.net/accounts/hough/index.html>  
Email: [hough@smccd.edu](mailto:hough@smccd.edu)

Materials: We will be using a text created by Skyline faculty specifically for this class. Make sure you get the August 2009 edition. I will supplement the text periodically with handouts. You will also need a ruler that you can use to measure in inches and centimeters.

Office: My office is in building 7, room 7324A. My drop in office hours will be MWF from 9:10 - 10:00 and TTh 11:10 - 12:00. In addition, you can make an *appointment* to see me either on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:10 - 10:00, or MWF from 11:10 - 12:00.

Attendance: Attendance on time is expected and required. If you know you will be absent, tell me before hand and get the assignment or call one of your classmates. Falling behind in a math class just doesn't work. Once you have more than 10 absences, I won't accept any late homework or quizzes.

Homework: I will expect you to complete the homework that I assign in class in time for the next day's meeting. I will collect the homework at the beginning of class after it was assigned and give points based on completeness and accuracy on selected problems. You will receive half-credit for any homework turned in late, but late homework **MUST** be turned in before the next exam. Answers to homework are to be written on a separate piece of paper except for filling out tables or other things that are hard to reproduce. In that case, you may attach that page from the book to your other answer sheet. Homework counts for 10% of your grade in the class.

Quizzes: Some days when homework is due, I will start the class with a short "pop" quiz. These will be unannounced, and will be a problem straight out of the homework. Some days we will have a "group" quiz in which you will work together with three other classmates. There will be no make-up quizzes, but if you are absent (up to 10 times!) you may do the quiz you missed for "half-points." Quizzes count for 15% of your grade in the class.

Supplemental Instruction: LSKL 811 AA (CRN 92537): You are required to complete extra hours outside of class in activities that contribute to your success in the class. The Supplemental Instruction class will be held on Tuesdays from 9:10-10:25 in room 1-1202 and will cover study skills and life skills as well as strategies for solving the problems from the class. Your grade in LSKL will be based on your participation in the activities on Tuesday mornings. Supplemental Instruction counts for 10% of your grade.

Participation: Each day that you are in class and participating, you will get 10 participation points. If you are too late (after 8:15) or leave early (before 9:00), your points for the day go down to 5. Some days you will get a chance to earn extra participation points. Participation counts for 5% of your grade in the class.

Exams: There will be approximately 4 exams, and one project at the end of the semester that counts as the 5th exam. You are allowed to use your book and your notes on the exams, but any handwritten notes must be written in your own handwriting. There will be no make-up exams, but your lowest score will be worth half as much as each of your higher exams. Exams will count for 45% of your grade in the class.

Final: The final exam will be given on Friday, December 18 from 8:10 - 10:40 and will be held in our classroom. The final is open note and open book. The final is cumulative and will count for 15% of your grade.

Grading: All letter grades will be determined by the following standard grading curve:

grade $\geq$ 90.0%	A
80.0% $\leq$ grade $<$ 90.0%	B
70.0% $\leq$ grade $<$ 80.0%	C
60.0% $\leq$ grade $<$ 70.0%	D
grade $<$ 60.0%	F

Important Dates:

Sep 7  $\rightarrow$  Holiday  
Sep 11  $\rightarrow$  Last day to drop  
Nov 11-12  $\rightarrow$  Faculty Flex Day - no classes  
Nov 13  $\rightarrow$  Holiday  
Nov 18  $\rightarrow$  Last day to withdraw  
Nov 26, 27  $\rightarrow$  Holiday  
Dec 18  $\rightarrow$  Final Exam.

**Themes:**

The class covers basic math concepts including place value, negative numbers, measurement, perimeter and area, proportional reasoning, and addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, decimals, and especially fractions.

Instead of spending a lot of time drilling the mechanics of the operations with pencil and paper, instead the class will emphasize an understanding of how the operations work, and how to apply them to real life applications. Your final project will be your opportunity to show that you understand how the course material applies to something in your life.

In addition to “the math” of the class, an important component is to learn what it takes to be successful in a college class in general, but more specifically how to be successful in a college math class. For most people, math takes more work than other classes do, and learning how to manage your time, get help, and deal with frustration is probably more important to your continued success at Skyline than any particular math topic. Give it the attention it deserves!