

Dear New Student,

Math 200 is a fairly straightforward and simple course to follow if you keep up with your homework. Approximately every week there are a few homework chapter sections that are due. These are pretty simple to complete. MyMathLab has a tab on the right side of the problem that you are having a difficult problem on that helps you either solve the problem, or it can give you an example of a similar problem that gives you step by step instructions on how the problem was solved. The methods that MyMathLab uses are not always the same as the ones that Cindy Moss uses. The methods that we learn from her lecture notes are much simpler because they utilize the calculator functions. The lecture notes are very clear and easy to follow. If you have thoroughly studied the lecture notes, you will do fine on the exams. The exam problems are similarly structures to that of the examples from the lecture notes.

There are a lot of sample problems and review problems that will definitely help you study. The written homework is really good in helping with the review. I usually do the online homework earlier, and on the week of the exam, I will do the written homework. This gives me a chance to refresh and go into more depth about the different types of problems I need to know for the exam, having already had an idea when I did the online homework. The day before the exam I would attend the online review session, and I would do the practice test. This gives me a good final review, and after that I feel pretty confident about the material.

I think that my main problem was that I would put off studying/doing the homework until the deadline. This made me rush through the problems, and I would not really understand everything that I was doing because I just wanted to get it done. It would really help if you continued to stay on track of the course and get things done before the due date especially for the online homework. You get extra credit for getting the work done within at least a day early, and they are not difficult to do, so you just do it. I feel like I didn't utilize that privilege as much as I should have. There were also times when I went ahead on the online homework well before it was due. This was not a good idea as well. I would feel like since I did the work, I could just sit back and relax for a week or two. However, when it came time to do the written homework and study for the exam, I had already forgotten how I did those online homework problems. Thus I had to start from square one again. Do the homework problems early, but do it in a sensible time so that you don't end up forgetting what you have done.

While doing the written homework, it got me to be very familiar with the lecture notes because I always referred to them (online homework I would look at the "help me solve this" tab). So after I finished my written homework, I would make my 2% note card. Since I was familiar with all of the methods, I would put on the most important parts of the chapter sections on the note card. I would then try the practice exam using only the note card I made. This helped me not only memorize the things that I put on the card, but also it helped me see what kinds of information I was missing that I may need for the real exam. And if I had looked over the note card enough times, I wouldn't need it on the exam.

I think it is very important to get a binder for the class. Even though everything is online, I noticed that it is difficult to keep track of everything with many windows opened. You need the charts at hand to reference to, and the lecture notes while doing the homework. I think the class is very well structured and I never had any difficulty with the organization. The most difficult thing is staying on track of the work. Since it is a study on your own course, you have to be the one to be responsible for your work because there aren't any reminders from the teacher about when things are due. Time management is key. It shouldn't be a problem if you don't procrastinate. I find that the pace of the class is actually very slow. It only takes a few hours to get everything done if you're on top of things. All in all, I really enjoyed the class. It's simple to learn, and Cindy is very good at responding to your questions and emails right away. Have fun with it!