

Success Tip: Online or Hybrid Problem-Based Courses

If you are taking a problem-based course that has online components (i.e. textbook, quizzes, homework, exams), the following study tips as well as advice from other UMaine students can help.

Having trouble reading course materials on the computer screen?

Try these techniques:

- Adjust the brightness of the screen
- Highlight the text in different colors that are more appealing to your eyes
- Make the font larger or zoom in on the website
- Print out homework questions, handouts, lecture slides, and professor's notes

Student tip: *"Know how you learn better: in person or by computer."*

Note taking techniques:

- Even if the professor posts course slides or notes, it is still beneficial to take notes during lecture. Physically writing the information down will help to remember the concepts.
- It is helpful to take notes or create a study guide from the textbook. Any bolded, underlined, boxed, and highlighted terms and formulas should be written out, as well as examples. These particular items in a textbook are set apart because they are important.
- When taking notes, include the date and section number at the top, so that concepts are easier to find later.

Student tip: *"Always print out the pre-lecture notes, and look over the information before class, so you already recognize (even if you don't understand) what's being covered."*

Online Homework:

- Write down homework answers step-by-step.
- Label each section number and problem number (i.e. 7.1 #1) so that you can refer to it when doing other similar homework problems or when studying for an exam. · Labeling and organizing assignments helps to see where you may have gone wrong in the process, especially when seeking help from the professor, TA, or a study group.

Student tips:

- *"Make sure to take the time to complete the homework that is assigned."* ·
- *"Make a study group, it helps to keep up with doing the work and understand it better."*
- *"I also wrote down all the homework problems in my notebook, which helped a lot."*

Find your class folder or website tools:

Make use of the online resources that are available. These tools may include:

- Class blog or discussion
- “View an Example” button
- “Ask My Instructor” button
- Posted lecture notes
- Online version of the textbook
- Video button/ Multimedia library
- Instructor Tip
- Calculator
- Technical Help

Use your campus resources:

- Professor’s office hours
- Teacher’s aides (TAs) and Maine Learning Assistants (MLAs)
- Brightspace
- Math Lab
- Form a study group

Student tip: *“Go to lecture because it really does help!”*

Online resources:

- General math computation help: wolframalpha.com
- Graphing calculator review card (PDF):
media.pearsoncmg.com/aw/aw_mml_shared_1/calculator_review_card.pdf
- Pearson StatCrunch: <https://www.statcrunch.com/>

More advice from students:

“Make sure to have a good calculator.”

“Watch tutorials on how to graph equations.”

“Don’t fall behind; make sure you keep up with all of the concepts.”

“Go to every class and actually work through the study guide a few times.”

“Don’t just guess on the online multiple choice homework. It doesn’t help you learn the material.”

“Form study groups and go over a few extra problems.”

“Get extra help, and have a good reference sheet planned out before the exam.”