

## **Tutor Program 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 University of Maine college 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 note 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."**

### **Tips for 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 for online homework:**

- "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
- Class Blackboard
- Math Lab
- Form a study group

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

**Online resources:**

- General math computation help: <http://www.wolframalpha.com/>
- Graphing calculator help:  
[http://media.pearsoncmg.com/aw/aw\\_mml\\_shared\\_1/calculator\\_review\\_card.pdf](http://media.pearsoncmg.com/aw/aw_mml_shared_1/calculator_review_card.pdf)
- Stat Crunch: <http://www.statcrunch.com/5.0/mystatcrunch.php>
- Grapher: [http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/frames\\_asid\\_109\\_g\\_4\\_t\\_2.html](http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/frames_asid_109_g_4_t_2.html)
- Unit circle practice: [http://www.dudfree.com/Student\\_Tools/materials/prec calc/unit-circle.php](http://www.dudfree.com/Student_Tools/materials/prec calc/unit-circle.php)

**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, go over a few extra problems.”
- “Get extra help, and have a good reference sheet planned out before the exam.”