

MATH 072: INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA STUDY GUIDE

Spring 2012

<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/mathskills>

MSC HOURS: Sunday 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM, Monday-Thursday: 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Course credits apply towards financial aid requirements and GPA, but do not count towards graduation. Math 072 is a prerequisite course for Math 112, Math 115, Math 196 and Math 201.

SERVICES

- **TUTORING:** Tutors are available for individual help at the Math Skills Center during regular hours of operation.
- **LECTURES:** Courses meet 150 minutes per week.
- **ADVISING:** Your class Instructor and the Math Skills Center will help you develop study strategies and keep a record of your progress.
- **CD-ROMS:** The text material is available in CD-ROM format. Check at the Math Skills Center office.
- **WEB SITE:** Course calendars, syllabi, assignments and practice exercises are available at the Math Skills Center web site: www.stcloudstate.edu/mathskills/. Group Projects and other information are presented in pdf format.
- **MathXL:** This online software will be used for graded assignments and quizzes.
- **COMPUTER LAB:** Computers for student use are located in CH 224, or other open labs on campus.
- **SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION SESSIONS:** Students work in study groups with a skilled facilitator. Students who attend these sessions tend to do well in the class. These sessions are optional but greatly increase your chance of success.

Any student with a documented disabling condition (physical, learning, psychiatric) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations should contact the instructor AND Student Disability Services at the beginning of the semester.

TEXT

Your text is **Intermediate Algebra: 10th or 11th Edition** by Bittinger. You will need a scientific calculator. Graphing calculators will not be allowed. Register for MathXL at www.MathXL.com. Purchase of a one-year subscription may be made online using a credit card.

GOALS

The primary goal of Math 072 is to prepare you for success in college-level math courses, particularly for Math 196, 201, and the pre-calculus courses. This includes mastering the required basic algebra skills and developing successful study habits. Besides learning to read a math text (it is similar to studying a foreign language), you need to develop self-discipline for studying math **every** day. The nature of Mathematics is such that you must take it in small bites— avoid trying to cram large blocks of material at one time.

ASSIGNMENTS

The four course units, text sections covered and problem assignments for this course are given on the Intermediate Algebra Daily Assignment Sheet. Carefully read each assigned section; then work each assigned problem. After you have solved a problem, check your answer with the solution in the back of your text. If your answer is incorrect, determine your error. If needed, ask a tutor for assistance. By the time you complete a section assignment, you should be able to correctly work similar problems without looking at examples or the answer key. Moreover you should know how the completed section's problems are similar to and different from other section's problems you have worked. Completing the section assignments on or very near the date indicated on the Course Calendar is essential for success in this course.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

- **LECTURES:** Lecture sessions meet 150 minutes per week. Attendance at these sessions is **mandatory**. During the lectures your instructor will relay important announcements, record your progress, take attendance, address key concepts and answer questions through group work and lecture. If you are unable to attend a lecture at your assigned time, you may make up your absence by attending an alternate section that week with your instructor's permission.
- **ATTENDANCE:** We recommend that you devote at least 12–15 hours per week to studying algebra. You must spend at least 100 minutes in the Math Skills Center (CH 224) each week. This may include time studying, getting help from tutors, working on Mathxl or other related math activities while in the Math Skills Center. A record is kept of your attendance. Use the login computer to sign in and to sign out each time you use the Math Skills Center.
- **GROUP PROJECTS:** These collaborative activities provide the opportunity to learn to work effectively in groups and to communicate the mathematics. It is important that all members of the team gain a full understanding of the mathematical concepts contained in the projects. Individual projects will not be accepted.
- **TIME/ATTENDANCE BONUS POINTS:** One point is awarded each week (regardless of length) for meeting the 100 minute time requirement and one point is awarded for attending all classes scheduled for the week.

TESTS

The schedule for the four unit examinations (100 points each) and the final examination (150 points) is given on the study guide Calendar. Your exam will be given during your scheduled class time. Bring a picture ID, a pencil and your calculator to your testing location. Each unit test lasts 50 minutes; the final exam has a 150-minute time limit. Requests for taking a test other than at your scheduled time must be submitted to either your instructor or the Director of the Math Skills Center before the scheduled test time. Exams are about 75% multiple-choice questions and 25% “show your work” problems.

COURSE GRADE

Your total score on the four unit exams, the final examination, MathXL assignments, projects, quizzes and bonus points will determine your grade for the course.

Unit exams (100 points each)	400 points
Final exam (comprehensive)	150 points
MathXL, Groupwork, Quizzes, Bookwork	250 points

Course grades are assigned as follows:

A:	720 - 800 points
B:	640 - 719 points
C:	560 - 639 points
D:	480 - 559 points
F:	0 - 479 points

To increase your likelihood of success we recommend that you attend Supplemental Instruction sessions at least once a week. If your overall grade or exam score falls below 75% during the semester then weekly attendance will be a requirement until your grade is raised. This is in addition to class meeting times and working in the MSC. If you do not meet your SI requirement, the highest grade you can receive in this class is a C-. We want you to succeed and experience has shown that SI helps.

COMMENTS

The faculty and tutors of the Math Skills Center are dedicated to providing you the opportunities for success in studying mathematics. It is up to you to make good use of these opportunities. Our goal is to help you prepare for studying college level mathematics by mastering basic mathematical skills, developing effective study habits and achieving the confidence level needed for success. If you encounter difficulties, consult with your class instructor and/or the Director of the Math Skills Center as soon as possible. We will work with you to arrive at a resolution.

The operations at the Math Skills Center are based on your being an **active student** who takes responsibility for learning and is committed to achieving success. We look forward to working with you.

The Math Skills Center reserves the right to amend this guide as necessary.