Tips for success in M141 at SDSU

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The following items are some general tips for success in Math 141, Pre-calculus. For many of you, this will be your first experience with an online class. Online classes allow for more flexibility in learning, but are a slippery slope when it comes to procrastination. Please read the following tips carefully:

• **Thinking you remember pre-calculus concepts from a previous class and not studying is a very poor strategy.** This usually will not produce a good grade.

• With any online class, time management is paramount. Make sure that you set aside time everyday to work on your assignments, read relevant chapters, watch the video lectures and take weekly quizzes.

• Use your resources: Tutoring, your book, hints/solutions from Wiley and the video lectures.

• Begin studying for the test at least a week before. In most cases, the test covers more than one chapter. Cramming the night before is not your best strategy!

• Use your previous homework’s and tests to study. Many of the problems will come from these. Old final exams can be found at (rohan.sdsu.edu/~allen1/teaching.html).

• As a general rule of thumb, expect to study/work outside of class 2-3 hours per unit hour per week for the class: a three unit class has three hours per week in class and around 6-9 hours spent studying/working outside of class per week (this increases as classes become harder). Since there is no formal class, expect to spend 9-12 hours per week working assignments/quizzes, watching video lectures and reading your book.

• If you have spent some time pondering an idea or problem and are stumped, ask your fellow students or the TA’s. Don’t skip it and assume you don’t really need to know it.

• **Math is a hands on subject, you need to work problems and memorize theorems/definitions to be successful in this class.**