



# Student Success Office

## Tips for Success

# Reference Guide for Success in MTH 155

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### Subject Specific Advice

- Focus on concepts, not formulas. Students often get overwhelmed with formulas, but in statistics the big picture is more important. Try to learn the concepts behind the formulas – what they mean and when to use them. Later in life when you need to use a statistical technique, you can always look up the formula.
- Try to understand the big picture. What statistical procedures are used for and when to use each method. It is very easy to get hung up on nit-picking details and fail to see the forest because of the trees.
- Pay attention to notation. There are too many different symbols, and you need to know them all. Make a cheat-sheet explaining what each notation means. By the end of the semester, you might even learn to read Greek!
- Look for recurring themes in statistics. There are several important concepts that keep coming up over and over. Ask your instructor to emphasize these if need be.
- Read each problem carefully. Every word and symbol in a statistics problem is important, and there can be a lot of information given. To extract the information you need, read the problem slowly multiple times. You may want to annotate the problem, marking what is given and what you are solving for.

### While in Class

- Be prepared. Bring a notebook, pencil, and a calculator.
- Be attentive. Come to class well rested and fed. Focus on what's going on in class. Put away your cell phone.
- Take detailed and clear notes. They will help when you study for exams.
- Ask questions. If there is anything you don't understand, chances are other students are confused as well. Don't be shy to ask for clarifications.
- Make friends. Talk to your classmates before/after class and during group activities. This will help you to form study groups.
- If you are an online student, please make sure to watch videos, take complete notes, and interact with the classmates and the professor as much as possible.

## **Outside of Class**

- Review your notes the same or next day after you took them. You might only need to spend 10 minutes, but it will help you remember the concepts.
- Spread out work for large assignments and start working on them early. Not only it will be less stressful and more manageable, but you will be able to get help from the professor more easily than if you wait until the last minute.
- Set aside 1-2 hours of study time several times a week. Do not cram your study for 4-5 hours into one or two sittings each week.
- Write out a weekly calendar with deadlines for each assignment. You can find them in the syllabus.
- Start studying for your test around a week in advance.
- Utilize office hours and tutoring services.
- Form study groups or/get a study partner. Meet to go over questions, homework, and study for tests. Verbal interchange and interpretation of concepts with other students will deepen your understanding of the subject.