

<p style="text-align: center;">MATH 65 LAB No. 1 LEARNING STYLES AND STUDY SKILLS</p>
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Name _____

Instructor: T. Henson

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Purpose: Your learning style does not affect your ability to learn mathematics, but it can affect the strategies you adopt to help you learn mathematics. In this lab assignment you will take a learning styles inventory designed to help you to determine your learning style. You will also take a mathematics study skills inventory which will assess your preparation for learning mathematics. Explanatory materials and short-answer questions will help you devise an effective strategy for learning mathematics.

Learning Goals: Communication

- Identify your learning style
- Identify your math study skills
- Describe at least three ways in which you can apply your learning style to the learning of mathematics
- Describe at least three effective strategies for learning mathematics
- Describe at least three effective strategies for studying mathematics
- Create a study plan

Materials Needed:

- Internet access
- LPC print card (available in the Bookstore)

Supplementary Materials:

- Mathematics Study Tips
- Student Schedule

A. Learning Styles

Different people learn differently. As a student you should be aware of your own learning style and how it affects the way you learn math. In this portion of the lab you will go to a learning styles website maintained by Diablo Valley College. Read the introductory information about learning styles found on the website and then take the on-line learning style inventory. The website is found at

<http://www.metamath.com/lswb/dvcllearn.htm>

You can link to the site from the LPC Math Department Study Skills page.

After completing the inventory, print out the page with your results, attach it to this lab, and read the supplementary material on learning styles that is provided on the website. Then answer the following questions using complete English sentences.

1. What is your primary learning style? What is your score for this learning style?
2. Are the results of your learning style inventory expected or unexpected? That is, do they indicate that you are you the type of learner you thought you were?
3. What are the strengths of that learning style? How do you learn best?
4. List three strategies that you can use to help you learn math.
5. You may find, when you review the results of your inventory, that you have a secondary learning style; a learning style whose score is close to that of your primary learning style. Do you have a secondary learning style? If yes, what is it and what is your score for this learning style? What are two good learning strategies for this learning style?

B. Math Study Skills

Success in your mathematics course depends on many factors, but the most influential factors are those that you control: your mathematical preparation for the course and your math study skills.

You should be mathematically prepared for a course if you have successfully completed the prerequisite course. However, if it has been more than 1 year since you passed the prerequisite course, you may find that you have forgotten some of the skills and knowledge necessary for success in the current course. You may need to review the material from the previous course as you learn the material in the new course.

Math study skills are techniques for learning mathematics that any one can master. They can be as simple as doing all of the assigned homework and attending all class sessions (except in personal emergencies, such as illness) or they can consist of making a conscious effort to learn a particular note-taking method which fits your learning style. There are many things you can do to help yourself learn math.

To begin, take the on-line math study skills self-survey found at

<http://www.purplemath.com/stdysrvy.htm>

You can link to the site from the LPC Math Department Study Skills page.

Once you have completed the survey, print out the page of results and attach it to this lab. Write a short response to each of the following questions:

1. Do you think the score accurately reflects your study skills level or were you surprised by the result? Why or why not?

2. Are you weaker in some areas than others? If yes, which ones? What is your greatest study strength? What is your greatest study weakness?

Mission College, a community college in Santa Clara, maintains an excellent Math Study Skills website. The attached **Mathematics Study Tips** are adapted from their website which can be found at

[http://salsa.missioncollege.org/mss/stories/storyReader\\$41](http://salsa.missioncollege.org/mss/stories/storyReader$41)

or you can link to the site from the LPC Math Department Study Skills page.

Review the list of study tips and identify three tips that seem to apply most to you.
Discuss what steps you could take to follow those tips.

C. Making Time for Math

The most important time for learning mathematics is in the class room, which is why it is so important that you attend class. However, even students with perfect attendance records will most likely not pass their math class if they do not spend adequate time outside of class studying and learning the material.

The general rule is that you should spend two hours on study outside of class for each hour spent in the classroom. Math 65 is a five unit class, meaning you spend five hours in the classroom each week. Come on! You do the math. How many hours should you study math each week? _____. For students who struggle with math, even more time may be needed.

Time management issues are often cited as one of the major reasons why students in both community colleges and universities do poorly in school. Many students juggle full- or part-time jobs, family responsibilities, personal relationships and course loads. It is easy to get overwhelmed and, since math class is usually not a student's favorite class, it is often the math study time that gets cut when other needs must be met.

If you want to succeed in your math class, it is essential that you budget your time to allow for adequate study time, including a minimum of one hour each week in the Integrated learning Center, where you can complete your lab assignments and get help when the need arises.

Your final assignment involves a time management exercise. Read the handout on Time Management. Then complete the attached Student Schedule (adapted from the LPC Student Handbook). Include in it all school-related, work-related and personal commitments. You don't have to give the details – just indicate how your time is allocated. Now, block in some study time for math (and your other courses). Turn this schedule in, attached to your lab.

Do you have enough time in the week? If not, consider discussing your situation with your math instructor or a counselor.

D. Commit Yourself to Success

Knowing your learning style, developing good study skills, and making time in your busy schedule to study math are important steps in the math learning process. There are many excellent resources available, both here at LPC and on the web, which can provide the support you need to succeed.

1. More on Learning Styles

Want to learn more? An interesting alternative inventory called the Index of Learning Styles is available at

<http://www.engr.ncsu.edu/learningstyles/ilsweb.html>

A description of the learning styles identified by the Index can be found at

<http://www4.ncsu.edu/unity/lockers/users/f/felder/public/ILSdir/styles.htm>

There are links to both the Index and the description on the LPC Math Department Study Skills page.

2. More on Study Skills

- The Mission College website referenced above has some good tips on a variety of math study skills, including time management.

3. Help with Mathematics

- The Open Math Lab in the Integrated Learning Center, building 600, provides drop-in mathematics help with LPC mathematics instructors 40 hours per week.
- One-on-one tutoring with an assigned student tutor is available through the Tutoring Center, building 2400.