

Study Skills in Action

Thinking Ahead to the Next Course

Most students do not want to think about their next math course. During the last couple of weeks of the semester, students just want to get done with math and everything else. In fact, some students want a break from math and intend to skip a semester. *Bad idea.* Students tend to forget almost all of what they just learned during the semester they take off, making the next math course more difficult when they take it.

Keep moving on with the math courses you must take. How can you make your next semester begin in a productive manner? Assess what you did well this semester and what you need to do better next semester.

Smart Study Strategy

Map Out Your Next Course

- 1 ▶ Sign up for your next math course if you have not already done so. If you have made friends in your class, explore signing up for the same section of the course.
- 2 ▶ Design your whole academic schedule in a way that allows plenty of time to study for math.
 - Select a class time when you are most alert.
 - Leave an hour free before your math class in order to prepare for it.
 - Leave an hour free after your math class so that you can review, work with a tutor, or complete homework.
- 3 ▶ Assess what worked well and what did not work well this semester.
 - What study strategies worked well for you?
 - What strategies did you ignore and now realize would probably help?
 - How much time do you need to study each week for math?
- 4 ▶ Write a plan for studying that you can use next semester. Include strategies for each of the learning tasks you must do well to be successful: class notes; textbook learning; homework; test preparation; test taking. Keep your plan in a place where you will remember to pull it out and use it.
- 5 ▶ If you know who your instructor is going to be, visit his or her office before the end of this semester and introduce yourself. Ask if a syllabus for the course is available. You could also go online and see if there is a website for the class.

