MATD 0011 Developmental Math Lab

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Notes for Instructors
2007-2008

Co-requisite: Students enrolled in a lab course must also be enrolled in MATD 0330, 0370 or 0390.

Course purpose: Mathematics lab courses are intended to provide the students enrolled in the lab additional help for the corresponding MATD course that they are enrolled in. Essentially, the goal of the labs is to provide as much help as possible for the enrolled students. Although much of the course will consist of tutoring the course content, instructors should provide activities to help students with their study skills in mathematics and help them learn how to prepare for a mathematics exam.

Course structure: In order to have sufficient enrollment and scheduling options for students, it is necessary to have the lab classes allow students from any of the developmental math classes enroll. Much of the time the course will be like a tutoring session. Most instructors try to group the students together into common courses, common instructors, or common skill levels. Much of the time, students can help each other while the instructor is helping another person or group. At times, if several people have the same question, the instructor might work at a blackboard so the whole group can hear an explanation.

Text: There is no text specifically for the Developmental Math Lab class itself for the students. Students will have the text for their MATD course. Instructors should refer to The Official THEA Test Study Guide or Winning at Math by Paul Nolting for handling study skills and test taking skills with students. Please contact Gill Waterston on 223-8133 for these books.

Attendance and grades: Students are not given homework or tests in a lab course. The main way that students benefit from the lab courses is by attending lab. Since students must be given a grade in the lab course (the lab is an official college course that they enrolled in), the course grade should be based on attendance. Our grading scheme, for a lab that meets twice a week for 16 weeks (or a similar number of meetings in a shorter semester,) is as follows:

- 0-3 absences (0-10% of the classes) - A
- 4-6 absences (11-20% of the classes) - B
- more than 6 absences (more than 20% of the classes) - F or withdraw from course

If a student misses lab more than 6 times (20% of the classes), that student is not meeting the objectives of the course so the student should be withdrawn. Of course, the instructor can use judgment of this issue. You can use the concept of “excused absences,” but you should probably make clear what the approved “excuses” are, in advance, so that you don’t have to spend too much time discussing that with individual students. If you choose not to use “excused absences”, you may omit the last two lines from the student handout before duplicating it for your class. Most students in the lab class will need to report to the Developmental Math Advisor every three weeks. You will need to complete a report on the student’s attendance and participation in the lab.

Withdrawals: If a student quits attending or withdraws from the regular course, it is expected that he will withdraw or be withdrawn from the lab course. You do not have to “police” this, exactly, but if
you withdraw students for absences, that should handle this problem. It is not really appropriate for
the student to receive a passing grade in the lab when he has withdrawn from the corresponding
course.

**Credit**: None of the lab courses earn college-level credit for the student. It is a good idea to remind
them of this. They do earn ACC developmental credit, so these count in computing eligibility for
financial aid, in many cases. One issue that has arisen recently is that prospective public school
teachers who are working toward emergency certification in math only need a certain number of
college credits in mathematics, but apparently no one cares what those courses are. Several people
in this situation have tried to meet some of this requirement with lab courses. If any of you students
are planning to do this, please explain that this is not considered appropriate and probably these
won’t count.
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Information for Students*

2007-2008

The purpose of this lab is to give you as much help as possible in the corresponding developmental mathematics course you are enrolled in. Our time in lab will be spent solving problems, helping each other, talking about study skills for math, and test preparation for any math class. The only requirements for this lab are ATTENDANCE and participation. The more you attend lab (and your class), the better you will do in your class.

Co-requisite: You must be enrolled in either MATD 0330, 0370, 0390 If you withdraw from that course, you must withdraw from this lab as well. Otherwise you are likely to receive an F in the lab.

Credit: This course counts for one hour of developmental credit, which is counted in your load for financial aid, in most cases, and for some other purposes. It does not count as college-level credit. Thus it will not satisfy any degree or certificate requirements or transfer to other schools.

Required Materials: You must bring your textbook and list of homework problems to every lab class meeting. To get the most from the class, you should work on the homework ahead of time and bring a list of your questions, as well.

Grading: You must receive a grade for this lab since this lab is part of your official schedule. Because the intent of this lab is to help you in your course, you will be graded on attendance and participation only.

Grading scale:
A – Less than 10% of the classes missed
(If your class meets twice a week for 16 weeks, this is 3 classes or less.)
B – Between 11% and 20% of the classes missed
(If your class meets twice a week for 16 weeks, this is 4 – 6 classes.)
If you have missed more than 20% of the classes (more than 6 classes in a class that meets twice a week for 16 weeks,) you are not meeting the objectives of the lab and you should withdraw by the appropriate date. If you do not withdraw, you will receive the grade of F for the lab. Students working with the Developmental Math Advisor may have more stringent attendance requirements.

Your instructor may or may not provide for “excused absences.” If so, he/she will provide you with information about what you must do to have an absence counted as “excused.”

* Additional information about ACC’s mathematics curriculum and faculty is available on the Internet at http://www2.austin.cc.tx.us/math/