

## KEEPING UP WITH MATHS OR STATS

The key to studying a maths or stats unit is to remember that **each week's work is often built on the foundations laid by work covered in previous weeks.**

**Study your maths/stats *steadily* throughout the semester**

Some subjects can be studied in intensive bursts of work, but not maths! You can't learn three weeks of maths content in one go because it takes time to assimilate each week's work. Better to study for a third of that time each week.

**Start studying in Week 1**

**The fundamental concepts of maths/stats units are often taught in the first few weeks.** Your ability to learn and succeed with the more difficult material later in Semester depends on those first few weeks.

The more you do at the start, the less you will have to do later on and the less stressed you'll be trying to catch up.

**Do the exercises**

**Maths learning happens when you attempt exercises.** Do as many of the exercises provided by your lecturer as you can. When you run out, cover up the answers to worked examples in the notes and do them too! It may seem like a chore at first, but soon the material will "click" and you will find yourself whizzing through them.



**Be organised**

- **Read.** Use your lecture notes, unit reader, etc to help answer exercises. Read through the previous lecture before the next lecture. This will help the content flow logically.
- **Write.** Summarise the main concepts, theorems, etc, for each topic. Add each new insight you discover while answering exercises.

**Write mathematically**

Maths writing is like regular writing. You should be able to read your written answers to exercises out loud.

- Write successive lines of algebraic workings *down* the page.
- Add notes at the side explaining tricky steps or the rule you used.

Good maths writing makes it easier for you to revise your work later and, most importantly, allows you to get your ideas down quickly and clearly in tests/exams!

## Assess yourself

Ask yourself “why did I get that wrong?” or “is there a neater way to do this question?”. The more you wrestle with the exercises, the clearer your understanding of maths will become.

Try and answer your own questions as much as possible. If you are wasting too much time, ask your lecturer/tutor or the Numeracy Skills Adviser for help.

### TIP

#### Start a study group

Share your knowledge. Explaining solutions to others is a great way to better understand concepts yourself (we call this “the tutor effect”).



**The “learning curve” in maths is not smooth.** You may find that your understanding of the content develops slowly at first, especially early in the semester.

This is quite normal.

*Keep working, work steadily, seek advice and check your progress because it takes time for mathematical ideas to be developed in class and then it takes time for your brain to process them.*

## Use our Maths & Stats Drop-in sessions

Studying alone can be difficult. Education research shows the small class environment is optimal for learning.

Drop-In Sessions give you a supported environment to complete your maths study in. The best thing about these sessions is that if you get stuck, there is help nearby to keep you moving.

### Like this Survival Guide? Why not check out more of our guides...

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