

Let me begin by saying this: Online Classes are not for everyone. Online classes are just as much work, if not more work than a normally scheduled class. Taking and being successful in an online class requires a great deal of self-discipline, good time management, hard work, and good communication skills. If you are one of those students willing to put in the time and work to be successful, then an online class may be just the thing for you.

If you're wondering what this online class is all about, I'll explain. If you've taken any math class at Skyline College before, you know the classes use the Pearson Learning system online. If you don't know about Pearson's Learning, View it here: [pearsonmylabandmastering.com](http://pearsonmylabandmastering.com). Pearson, or Course Compass, is an online community for the course you are registered for. On the Website are the Course Documents, Lectures, a Virtual Classroom, Discussion Boards, Homework Assignments, and much more for your specific class.

It is expected of you to do your part. One way to be involved with your classmates and to participate in the class is the Discussion Board. This valuable tool will help you connect with others in the class, get answers from your instructor, and maybe even find your future study group.

Math 201 is Quantitative Reasoning, it can help with preparing for Statistics (Math 200) or just be used as a transferable math course (please see Assist.org to see if this math class qualifies for your major or field of study). This class ranges from Money Exchange to Voting in politics. There is a wide range of topics in the course. As a college student myself, I am all too familiar to the loans available and the debt that follows, so personally for me, the topics of Chapter 3: Numbers in the Real World and Chapter 4: Managing Money were very useful to me in my own life. I learned about how to control my debt, and how to be in control.

It is very important to stay organized and on top of things. One way to do this is to keep a Calendar that is not online. You will have a Unit checklist of assignments, but it is important that if you are not on your computer all the time that you still know what is due and when it is due, so you are not surprised. I had a calendar in my binder, and on it I wrote when my assignments were due, when the quizzes were due, and the days of the exams. One of the most informative and helpful tools in the class is the Virtual Classroom. There you can actually talk to the professor and look at problems being done. If you are not available on the days of the virtual classroom they are archived, so always look at these. I cannot stress it enough, this will help you immensely!

If I had to do the class over again, I would spend more time with the material. I felt that I didn't spend enough time doing the problems, and doing them over. You have more freedom with an online class, but it should be used to do even better, not taken for granted. For instance, you do not have to be on campus for the class (Except for exams), so why not use that time to really work through the problems and to understand the material? If you are on campus already, lucky you because you can also go to the MESA center and get help with the problems and homework. You can use the computers for your online homework too.

Personally, I am a kinesthetic learner, meaning I learn best when I actually am doing things for myself; that means I take notes from the book, I write out all the problems from the virtual classrooms, I have to write all homework problems to understand what I am supposed to do, and I do have to draw out pictures myself. Find out what works best for you. If you are visual, maybe use colors, drawings, and use the diagrams from the book. If you learn by listening you can record yourself going through the problems and save it in your itunes as an mp3 file and listen to it, or go to the virtual classrooms to talk and listen, ask questions and get answers.