

Pre Requisite – for success in this class you should have taken Academy Advanced Algebra and earned an A or a B. If you earned a C in Academy Advanced Algebra you should either retake it or take regular Pre Calc and take this class next year. If you got a C in Academy Advanced Alg, this class will skip over skills you do not have and move at an uncomfortable pace in addition to expect a deeper level of understanding than you’ve had before. You may be able to pass but you’ll have gaps in your math skills that will cause problems later on - especially if you get a low score on the pre-req test the first day.

Business Math Analysis (similar to Finite Math) and Brief Calculus are two separate classes – they don’t build on each other. Business Math Analysis is a collection of seemingly unrelated topics – probability, finance, game theory, matrices, etc. and Brief Calculus is the calculus required for non-engineering majors that need calculus – business majors for example. The class you take after this class is AP Calculus (a more engineering application of calculus).

Grades- Your grade is your % of the total points – no secret formulas or weightings - just divide your points by the total possible. We follow a 90-80-70 scale. Tests will always be graded by the next day and grades are posted after each test and count for about 85% of the grade. Homework counts for about 15% of the grade. The semester grade is based on percentages, not letter grades. There is no extra credit – the assignments and tests are adequate to measure your understanding of the material and your grade is a measure of that understanding.

College credit – this class is offered for college credit. If you choose to take this class for college credit, you need to sign up within the first three weeks of the semester. If you earn a D in the class for the semester, you will earn high school credit but not college credit. There is no difference in what you do in the class if you are taking it for college credit – you just pay the college tuition, and you earn college credit if you get a C or better. No college accepts transfer grades – they accept credits but not grades – your college GPA will not start before you arrive at college.

Assignment Sheet- you are given an assignment sheet that lists all the homework and tests for the entire quarter.

Absences – there is not a time limit on making up work due to excused absences or school-related absences but usually, the longer students wait, the poorer they do. If you are involved in activities that have a lot of school-related absences, the class will be more difficult for you. It is common for people to put off making up a test for a couple of weeks – it’s also common for those people to do very poorly on those tests because we haven’t been working on that material in class and they’ve forgotten it. If you are absent for a test, you will not take the same test or even a parallel test as the rest of the class- it will be a different test.

Calculators- you’ll have a graphing calculator for this class. You may not share calculators or open other electronic devices on tests. Extra calculators are not available for tests- be sure to bring your own

Classroom rules - Keep your electronic devices, food and drinks put away in your backpack

Tests- tests will ask you to apply what you have learned. They will be more than just changing a number on the homework assignment. We will talk about the applications and extensions each day as we go over homework. In the past you may know some very good math students that have been able to not pay attention in their math classes and still do well - especially in jr high. If the test material is difficult for you, it might be that you are completing the homework but not paying attention as we talk about “what if” things on each problem as

we go over it. Another somewhat common problem people have is that if they are over extended – involved in too many things – they sometimes have to try to complete 4th hr's homework in the 3rd hr or use lunch to complete homework due after lunch and so on throughout the day. Be aware, if you are so over-extended that you are not able to devote adequate time to finish your homework, you may not be able to succeed at the level you would like to. Some people choose to eliminate something so they can maintain their level of success and others don't want to give anything up and just accept a lower level of success. High school is a good time to fine-tune that balance.

Study groups – meeting with a group of people once a week to review is highly recommended in this class. More than any previous class, the material in this class will be completely new, not just more difficult versions of topics you've had before. A study group is a weekly meeting to review the past week - not people doing that night's assignment together and not people cramming together the night before the test. A regular study group is something most students have not done before - it is highly recommended for this class. If you can establish that behavior now, you will be much more successful in college.

Extra help - I am available before school, after school, and at lunch for extra help except on teacher meeting days

This class overlaps less with your previous math class than any that you've ever had. Half of 1st semester and every single thing in 2nd semester will be topics you have never seen before – not just harder problems from previous topics. The way to succeed in this class is to pay attention as we go over the homework (that may be new for you if math has always been easy), work hard to complete all the homework (don't skip the hard problems at the end), and use a study group every week rather than waiting to cram for tests the night before the test.