



Welcome to  
Summer WMath100 On-line  
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Hello, and welcome to Summer WMATH 100 online at Skagit Valley College!

My name is Zoe Grimshaw, and I'll be the instructor for this course. The start of the quarter is Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, but I wanted to send this email out a bit early, to get you introduced to the basics of this course in order for you to see how it works, get your software, get your calculator, and let you get enrolled in your class. This way you can start the course with the required graded homework as soon as you are ready & before the very short Summer quarter starts.

I've attached the syllabus for the course, and this is your first assignment: Print it out and **Carefully** Read through the Syllabus. This is important! The syllabus has everything you'll need to know about this class, including the date of the On-Campus Final Exam, how your overall grade is computed, and many other fascinating details. The first homework assignment is about the Syllabus.

In the meantime, here's the short (and hopefully simple) version. You'll sign up on the course website (more on that in a minute) and start doing the work. The course work consists of three parts:

1. Homework. The homework is done on the website MyMathLab with the exception of two hand-written assignments. Each homework assignment has a due date, and if you miss the deadline, you can still work on the homework, but the system will automatically take 10% off your score for problems worked after the due date for that assignment. 10% on a problem in an individual assignment isn't much if you're late every once in a while, but it can start to stack up. After the first assignment, all assignments are prerequisites, (meaning you must work 50% of assignment 2 for assignment 3 to open.)
2. Quizzes. Last time to work - Every fifth night at midnight is a final due date for a quiz on the material you completed up to that point. If you miss a quiz deadline, the system will lock you out, and you won't be able to take the quiz. If that happens, email me immediately. I can open up the quiz for you, with late penalties. It's much better to work a couple days ahead so you're not taking the quiz right before the due date, when a 1 hour quiz closes at midnight, you must start the quiz by 11pm or risk the computer closing the quiz before you are done. All quizzes have multiple attempts allowed, but only the best grade will be counted in your gradebook.
3. Final Exam. When you are ready early or during the last week of the quarter, 2 Choices of times; on Wednesday, 1 - 4pm, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, on the Mt. Vernon Campus *OR*, on Thursday, 5-9pm, August 24<sup>th</sup>, on the Whidbey Campus you'll take the paper final exam. Please mark it on your calendar now! You will be allowed pencils, blank scrap paper and a calculator on the final. You will also be allowed one sheet of notebook paper (front and back) with notes, formulas, example problems or whatever you find helpful. This does mean you will need to travel to the Whidbey Campus at least once. If that is not possible, let me know at least by Aug14<sup>th</sup>, and we can work an out an alternative plan. Taking the final exam completes the course.



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Below are details about enrolling yourself in MyMathLab. In the meantime, please respond to this email and answer a couple quick questions for me, copy and paste these questions and your responses into an email to reply.

1. What was the last math class you took and when?
2. Have you scheduled the ~20 hours a week to work this class in the next ~4 weeks or ~12hours a week to work this class in the next 8 weeks?
3. What is the primary reason you are taking this class?
4. Are you in a professional/technical program here at SVC? If so, which one?
5. How would you characterize your study skills? How about your math skills?
6. What occupation/position do you hope to have in 5 years?
7. What do you do to relax or have fun? Any hobbies?
8. Do you have any problems with the dates for the on campus final? How far are you from which Campus [Name the campus and give Minutes of drive or ~miles]

If you have any questions, feel free to email me. [zoe.grimshaw@skagit.edu](mailto:zoe.grimshaw@skagit.edu) I'm looking forward to the quarter with you.



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#### Getting Started:

Except for the final exam, the entire course takes place at a website called MyMathLab. Your first step is to head over to [www.mymathlab.com](http://www.mymathlab.com) <<http://www.mymathlab.com>> and make yourself an account. Click on the student button below the word REGISTER to get started. This will ask you for the course ID, which is **grimshaw69307**. From there, click create to make an account. You'll need to have an access code, or else a credit card to buy an access code [this is the cheapest way to gain access]. If you are waiting on money to get your access code, you should still sign up for the class. Go through the regular sign-up procedure on the website and there is a point where they ask for the access code. *On that bottom of that page, there is a link that allows you temporary access for 14 days for free,* which you can use until you pay for your regular access code. The code is cheapest with a credit card purchased at the website or you can get a code at the bookstore.

The access code & a 2-line or better scientific calculator, scrap paper, and a pencil are the only things you're required to buy for the course. (The textbook is available on the website (e-book), although many students prefer to have a print, paper textbook to learn from. If this is the case, an older edition of our text will work just fine, and can be purchased online quite cheaply.) The calculator recommended is the **TI-30XIIS** cost ~\$15, (cheapest at Wal-mart) this is not a graphing calculator, if you have a graphing calculator it will work for this class, but it won't have several of the features that we will use (Like decimal to mixed number or a % key).

Once you've signed up, there should be a link that has our course name, and after you click on it, you'll be in the class! The four main buttons you'll use are the ones that say Do homework, grades, hand-written assignments and take a quiz. Start with the do homework button. Take advantage of the help features for the homework questions. Once you've done all the homework before the first quiz, you'll be able to click "take a quiz" and take the quiz. From there, it's lather, rinse, repeat, repeat, ... until the final exam.

A couple of notes: Each set of homework assignments and quiz has its own due date. I recommend trying to finish the material for each deadline a couple days early.

The deadlines help prevent you from falling behind, but nothing prevents you from getting ahead. Indeed, as soon as you've finished chapter 1, you can start chapter 2. It is possible to finish the course in a couple weeks. Granted, you probably won't do anything else during those two weeks, but it is possible! I'd encourage you to work a bit ahead if you have the time. If you do finish the course work early, you can take the final exam early and be done with the course.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Good luck! [Zoe.grimshaw@skagit.edu](mailto:Zoe.grimshaw@skagit.edu)