How to Succeed in Mathematics

If you want to succeed in Mathematics, the suggestions offered here may help.
1. After class, try to do homework **as soon as possible**. Doing work while it is still fresh in your mind is the best way to do it.

2. When studying or working on homework, try to do this before 9p.m. The fresher the mind, the better you will be able to concentrate on your work.

3. Read the book. You paid a lot of money for it. It has more than the homework questions in it.

4. The best way to succeed in any subject is try to do the work yourself first. If you are stuck, then you should try other techniques.

5. When you are stuck, you can:
   a. Take a food break (reenergize yourself);
   b. Reread the book and your notes for some suggestions;
   c. Go see the tutors in the Learning Center;
   d. **Come to office hours or email me for help**;
   e. Read through your student solution manual for suggestions;
   f. Ask other students in the class for ideas.

6. When you come to class or office hours, be prepared to ask questions about anything you do not understand. Please do not just ask me how to do something. I will give you ideas only if you have put in a good effort.

7. If you do not understand something in class, let me know immediately. My goal is for you to understand things, not listen to my nasally voice.

8. Part of your study time should be spent looking over the most recently corrected assignment. If you missed some questions, can you do them now? Try them again. It is not at all uncommon for a student at home, alone, to find it impossible to do what seemed too obvious when done in class.

9. Form a study group with 3-5 other students. Try to meet regularly.

10. Be reasonable about taking notes. Don't write down every word. If you intend to keep your text, you may wish to star or underline some parts of it or even write a definition given in class. Try to understand the concept being explained before you take notes. If you don't understand, ask right then.

11. One of the reasons that mathematics is important in this world is that it is a precise universal language. When a new mathematical word or symbol is introduced in your text, it should be carefully defined. Learn the definition exactly as given. If it's a "good" definition, it will not include extra words. If you leave out a word or change one, it is extremely likely that you have changed the meaning.

12. Don't be shy. Use your instructor's office hours. If you don't understand, ask! If you don't know why a problem was marked wrong on your test, ask! Please don't wait until final exam time.