

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 work in one go because it takes time to assimilate each week's content before linking it to the next week's content. 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, a time where most students are still in holiday mode. 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.

Structure your maths study

1. **Read:** On the afternoon/evening after each lecture, read the notes *slowly* and *thoroughly*. Read them again before the next lecture. This will help the content flow logically.

Write: Summarise the main concepts, theorems, etc, for each lecture.



2. **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.

Maths writing is like regular writing. Use it to write clearly so your ideas come across and you can read it again later.

3. **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 a lecturer or the Numeracy Skills Adviser for help.

4. **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 hard, 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.



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

Use the Drop-In Study Sessions

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Maths and statistics

Drop-In Study 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. See below for more details.

More maths and stats information is available at <http://www.studysmarter.uwa.edu.au/>

- ✓ Workshops
- ✓ Drop-In study sessions
- ✓ Online resources

Like this Survival Guide? Why not check out...

Survival Guides: *Maths or stats lectures, Being stuck on maths problems, Studying for maths or stats exams, A maths or stats service course, Myths about maths at uni, Effective time management, Manage stress, Study smarter not harder.*

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Any suggestions?

We'd love to hear from you. Email us at study.smarter@uwa.edu.au

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