

# A MATHS OR STATS SERVICE COURSE

## Is this you?

- *I have to take a compulsory maths or stats unit and I wasn't good at maths at school.*
- *I'm thinking about taking a maths unit but I'm not sure if it's a good idea.*

Well, here's what to expect from tertiary maths units.



**University maths is not the same as high school maths**

Grab a copy of the Survival Guide *Myths about maths* for more information.

**Maths lectures are different from other lectures**

The skills you need to get the most out of a maths lecture can be different from (or even the opposite of) the skills used in other lectures!

Grab copies of the Survival Guides *Maths or stats lectures* and *Note-taking* to find out more.

**The skills for studying maths are different**

Grab a copy of the Survival Guides *Keeping up with maths or stats* and *Being stuck on Maths problems* to find out how.

**Maths exams are different from those for other units**

See the Survival Guide *Studying for maths or stats exams* to learn the best techniques for maximising your maths exam score.

**I'm still not sure that this is going to do me any good!**

Fair enough. This might help:

- Remember that the *process* of studying maths enhances skills that will help you in your studies and beyond (eg. analysing problems logically, proposing interesting hypotheses and producing effective solutions).
- It's true that most research work requires more complex stats than you will be able to do yourself. It's also true that big research projects employ statisticians to help design their experiments and analyse the results. However, if you understand the *ideas* behind statistical analysis and can do some of the basic work yourself, you will be a much better researcher.

## Quick notes on studying a maths or stats service course

- ✓ The “learning curve” in maths is not straight. 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.
- ✓ It takes time for mathematical ideas to be developed in class and then it takes time for your brain to process them.
- ✓ Mathematics is becoming more important in the modern world but less visible in our daily lives. Behind every smartphone app is computer programmer using maths.
- ✓ If you are motivated to study something, you will do better at it.



**(ma+hs)Smarter**  
Maths and statistics

More maths and stats information is available at

<http://www.studysmarter.uwa.edu.au/>

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

### Helpful Websites

Student Services: [www.studentservices.uwa.edu.au](http://www.studentservices.uwa.edu.au)

New students: [www.transition.uwa.edu.au](http://www.transition.uwa.edu.au)

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

Survival Guides: *Maths or stats lectures, Keeping up with maths or stats, Being stuck on maths problems, Studying for maths or stats exams, Myths about maths, Study smarter not harder, Studying at UWA.*

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### Any suggestions?

We'd love to hear from you. Email us at [study.smarter@uwa.edu.au](mailto:study.smarter@uwa.edu.au)

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