How to use the Math Lab

When can I use the lab?
The lab is usually open Monday through Saturday during the semester excluding SBCC holidays. Schedules for all of the labs are posted on the IDC 102A office door and on the website. Hours vary, so be sure to check the schedule!

Where do I start?
Please sign in with your SBCC student ID when you arrive! There are login stations near the entrances and exits, ask a tutor to direct you to the nearest login station if you can't find one.

Where can I work on my assignments?
The tutorial lab is split into the Algebra Lab for Math 1-107, and the Advanced Lab for Math 111-220. There is also a walk-in computer lab for SPSS, Maple, Matlab and online assignments.

While you can work in any of the lab areas, the tutors working in an area specific to your course are more likely to be familiar with your questions!

How do I get help?
Tutors monitor the labs for students with questions, so raise your hand or ask a free tutor if you have a question: don't be shy! If all of the tutors in your room are busy, you can also check other rooms to see if a tutor is free, or ask the coordinator.

What if I have a lot of questions?
If you need more individual attention, try coming in when the lab isn't as busy: early mornings, evenings, Fridays and Saturdays are often less busy! We also maintain a list of tutors who offer private tutoring, you can pick up a copy in the lab.

Where are the statistics tutors?
Statistics tutors are not always available in all of the labs; check the printed schedules posted in the lab for tutors with a 'σ' (sigma) by their names.

What about Math 200-220?
Since not all tutors are familiar enough with Math 200 and above to explain concepts, you may want to ask the coordinator when the tutors who can work with this material are scheduled.

Do you actually use the login information?
Yes! We look for patterns in the data (using mathematics of course!) This helps us with funding and scheduling in the lab.

I have more questions/comments/complaints!
Talk to the coordinator or send her an email! She is usually in the office (IDC 102A) or somewhere around the lab, and loves questions and feedback!
Book and Calculator Check-Out

The SBCC Luria Library has a limited number of current textbooks, solutions manuals and calculators available to check out through Reserves. Items can be checked out for two hours at a time, and you can search for your textbook online with your instructor’s name to see if it is available: http://library.sbcc.edu/findsearch/reserves/

In the lab, we have additional reference books available on the bookshelves in the tutorial labs; you can use these any time and feel free to borrow a book! You can also ask a tutor for available handouts and worksheets. We have a collection of them available in the algebra tutorial lab covering various topics, so please take a copy of any you find useful!

Study Tips and Strategies

Do!

✓ Bring your notes, books, assignments and written work.
✓ Attempt a problem before asking for help with it – math takes practice!
✓ Ask specific questions when you can, and look for examples in your book and notes.
✓ Work with other students in your class – You probably have similar questions and can get help all at once from a tutor.
✓ Write down all of your work, and keep it organized!
✓ Make notes to yourself while working out problems with a tutor– try to explain things in your own words.
✓ Start your homework early and work on some each day.
✓ Take a break if you're feeling tired or frustrated.

Do Not:

✗ Come in right before exams with a lot of last-minute questions – so does everyone else and you won't be able to get much help!
✗ Expect tutors to do your homework for you or give out answers to problems – tutors are here to help you understand how to do the homework yourself.
✗ Try to memorize every type of problem – there are too many! Try instead to understand why each step works, and you will be able solve more problems with less studying!

SBCC Mathematics Tutorial Lab
IDC 102 on the West Campus
www.sbcc.edu/mathematics/mathlab

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