

What to Expect in Prof. Keely's Math Online Class

Considering taking an online math class with Prof. Keely and wondering what to expect? You've come to the right place!

Here is an overview of what you can expect in a Keely online math class:

- The class is totally online -- all class readings, discussions, assignments, and assessments are available online.
- The class structure is a collaborative learning model, so there is plenty of interaction with your classmates and professor. Frequent participation is required on the class discussion board (asynchronous, like a newsgroup not a chat room).
- There are daily requirements that you must meet just as in an on-campus class. This is not a self-paced independent study class.
- There is no *particular* time that you must logon to class or complete your class work as long as you do so at least once every other day. To maximize your success in class it is recommended that you logon and participate a couple times a day at least five days a week.
- The textbook is available online as an interactive e-text with multimedia files and tutorial practice exercises.
- A typical day consists of reading brief online lesson notes, reading a section in the e-text, reading mini-lectures and examples posted by the instructor on the discussion board, working interactive problems online, and discussing homework and math problems with your classmates and instructor on the class discussion board.
- Tests are open-text open-note multiple choice/short answer timed (45-minute) online quizzes. The quizzes are given weekly or bi-weekly. You have a 57-hour window of opportunity in which to take the quiz.
- You never need to come to campus; the entire class including the final exam is conducted online.
- I logon several times each day (including Saturdays and most holidays) to answer questions and interact. Students typically answer each others' questions too helping each other out ... it is a true collaborative learning community.
- I am here to help you! I am available in a variety of ways which may include: online office hours, online private real-time chat by appointment, campus office hours, face-to-face study groups on or off campus, and by email.

What are the advantages to taking this class online?

- Access the course from any computer (portability)
- Logon to class at any time of the day or night (flexibility)
- An e-text is available (save \$\$)
- Quizzes are available online, open book, open note (less testing stress)
- No on-campus requirements/meetings (no parking hassles, save gas \$\$, be green :)
- You will learn more about your instructor and classmates than you ever could in a traditional class (friendly atmosphere)
- The class may involve unique fun learning experiences such as video lessons, team projects, hyperlinks to explore, wiki resources, webquests, and crossword puzzle reviews. Activities you typically won't find in a traditional campus math class!

Should I take this class online or on-campus?

Well, it is your decision! Online classes work particularly well for students with multiple commitments, varying schedules, small children, a long commute to school, etc. But be prepared for the same time commitment as in a campus class. Being successful in an online class takes self-discipline and determination. But if you are self-motivated, online is a great way to go ... tremendous flexibility and there is lots of help available to you! A whole classroom of online students to work with and a committed and organized instructor who logs on several times a day. Plus you are welcome to come to campus to meet with me, attend math help sessions, visit the tutoring center, or meet with your classmates for a study group if you need help face-to-face.

If you think taking math online will be easier since you don't have to be "in class" everyday, you are mistaken, and may be setting yourself up for failure. The online class has daily assignments and requires a daily commitment from you just as an on-campus section would.

[Is eLearning Right For Me?](#) may help you decide if online classes will work for you. Also, discuss your options with your academic advisor, a math instructor, or me before you enroll.

How much time will this class take?

As with a campus class, you are expected to put-in at least 15 hours per week working just on this 5-credit course (18-30 during an abbreviated summer term class). If you are new to computers or not very familiar with the internet, it might take you a bit longer. Taking this course online will certainly not be any shorter or easier than taking it on campus. Of course, you save time not having to drive to campus or find parking!

Does this class have any on campus meetings or requirements?

No. You never need to come to campus; the entire class including the final exam is conducted online.

However, you may want to come to campus sometimes to seek assistance from a tutor in math help sessions ([tutoring schedules](#)), attend my on-campus office hour ([office hours schedule](#)), or join a study group with your classmates (which could be arranged at an off-campus meeting site like a coffee shop instead).

Do I need any special software to access the course materials?

Please see the [MathOL FAQs - software requirements](#) for details.

Are there any extra fees or financial savings related to taking math online?

Clark does charge a technology fee for each distance learning class in addition to the regular tuition. This helps to cover the cost of owning and maintaining the course management system.

To balance this charge, I have tried to offer some savings to online students, e.g., by recommending the e-text rather than the hard copy text for a savings of \$20-\$100 (depending on publisher).

Almost all math courses require a graphing calculator; however, there are several graphing programs available online that work just as well. Some are free; some require a minimal fee. I will share my favorite sites with you in class. So by taking math online, you may opt not to purchase a graphing calculator saving you about \$80-160.

Plus, of course, you save the price of gas driving to campus :)

What is the success rate of the online class compared to on-campus?

I can only speak to my classes. Although the early withdrawal rates is sometimes higher in an online class than in an on-campus class, comparing overall success rates (completion rates, final course grades), the online classes tend to be more successful than the comparable on-campus class.

The key to success in an online class is getting off to a good start on day one, making the class a top priority, and participating regularly. As long as you committed, motivated, and self-disciplined, you can and will succeed! I am here to help you do just that ;-)

What comments have previous MathOL students made about Prof. Keely's online courses?

Here are both some positive and negative comments that I have received from student feedback:

~ "I have taken several online classes before, but this was by far the most organized. Prof. Keely is extraordinarily attentive and supportive."

~ "I'm shy about asking questions in class, but it was easy online. I even built up enough confidence to answer other student's questions."

~ "Taking math online was great. I had time to contemplate the material and understand each step, unlike in a fast paced lecture class."

~ "I chose an online class so I could do all my math on the weekend, but it didn't work out that way. Prof. Keely requires that you interact online every other day. I just couldn't keep up and failed the class. If you are going to take this class, realize that it is going to take at least as much time as a regular math class - maybe more!"

~ "I didn't like having to participate on the discussion boards. By not doing so, it really hurt my grade."

~ "I was apprehensive about the participation requirement, but the online activity really paid off. Working through math problems on the discussion boards with my fellow students turned out to be my favorite part of the class."

~ "Although I had taken other classes online, I was anxious at first about taking math online. But Prof. Keely was really nice and there to help at every step of the way. I highly recommend this class and instructor!"

~ "Besides the instructor, the best part of this class was MyMathLab. For the first time in my life I looked forward to doing my math homework."