

Calculus: frequently asked questions.

What is the workload like in calculus?

Students at Lawrence generally take three courses at a time, so each course involves a major investment of time and study. Different instructors mix the work differently; you might have regular homework to turn in, quizzes, exams at various points in the term. The main thing is to go over the material from each class to make sure you really understand it. Instructors are available outside of class daily to help you.

Do I really need a text?

Yes. You may be used to using your book only to get homework problems. One of the goals of mathematics instruction at Lawrence is to help you learn to read mathematics on your own, so we will be using the text directly on a daily basis.

The new texts come with a study guide and other materials; do I need them?

We won't make any direct use of them in class. You *might* find them useful. The cost of a new book is high, if that's a factor then buy a used book or order from an internet service, and don't worry about the study guide.

Do I need a calculator? Which one?

You will seldom need a calculator; when you do need one, a scientific calculator is sufficient (one with $\exp(x)$, $\ln(x)$, and the trigonometric functions). You won't need a graphing calculator. Of course, if you have one or want one, fine.

How is my grade figured?

Your instructor will make that clear at the beginning. If you have questions or concerns, ask!

What's the overall goal of the course?

To *increase your knowledge of the calculus*, wherever you're starting from in algebraic facility, prior exposure to subject, and aptitude for mathematics. Ultimately, we want to help you develop the skill of learning on your own.