

MATH 081 Alternative Format: Basic Mathematical Skills Winter 2026

Instructor Information

Name: _____

Office: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Office Hours: _____

Learning Environment

Classes will meet in a designated computer lab, currently in Z214. This alternative format is taught as an interactive course emphasizing mastery. Each class period will begin with a small lecture on the day's topics by your professor, followed by in-class work on the covered material. The students will work on their assignments with the help of in-class tutors and the instructor. In-class assignments may include instructor-created assignments on the material, as well as the associated MyOpenMath homework assignments, which students are expected to complete online outside of class.

The course catalog for SVSU suggests that for every credit hour taken, students need to study approximately two additional hours every week. If mathematics is difficult for you, you may need to spend even more time on homework and study.

When speaking during a class meeting, be respectful and considerate of both the instructor and your fellow classmates. Come to class ready to work and build a community of learners with your peers.

Course Materials

1. **Texts:** This course is built using the topics from the following OER text *Prealgebra*, Second Edition by Marecek, Anthony-Smith, and Mathis <https://openstax.org/details/books/prealgebra-2e>
2. **Binder:** I recommend using a binder for this course to organize notes, worksheets, and hand-outs.

Calculator Policy

No calculators are allowed to be used on tests or exams.

Course Description

This course is designed to help students develop requisite skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals, and operations using percentages and ratios, and basic linear equations. It is not applicable to general education requirements and/or minor requirements.

To graduate, every student must satisfy the University's Basic Skills requirements. A student placed into MATH 081 will receive a letter grade based on the University grading scale to reflect their performance in the course. The course grade will appear on the student's transcript, but it is not factored into the official SVSU GPA (neither the semester GPA nor the cumulative GPA). The letter grade of Math 081 may potentially affect students in two ways:

- Athletics eligibility
- Financial aid and SAP (satisfactory academic progress)

Places to Get Help

1. **Office Hours:** Students are encouraged to take advantage of office hours in order to supplement in-class instruction.
2. **Math & Physics Learning Center (MPLC):** Located on the second floor of Zahnow Library. For current hours visit <https://www.svsu.edu/mathandphysicslearningcenter/>. Or contact the MPLC at (989) 964-4648 or email mathtutor@svsu.edu.
3. **Dedicated Tutor:** A dedicated tutor for this course will be available in class and via email to help you navigate the course.

Grading and Evaluation

Computational Skills Test: Students must take a Computational Skills test (100 points) covering the material found in sections 1.1 - 1.5, 3.1 - 3.4, and 5.1 - 5.2. Students will be required to achieve a grade of **70% or higher** to pass the Computational Skills test, else a grade of **zero** will be given in the computational skills portion of the semester grade. **Refer to the attached handout for the procedure and detailed information.**

Homework: Homework will be done using the MyOpenMath online system through Canvas and can be completed on your own. These have unlimited attempts by the given deadline of the homework set. The homework problems are algorithmic and provide detailed practice for each topic. All homework sets are due by **11:59 PM on the due date**. Homework can be completed after the due date with the use of a late pass, but there will be a 30% penalty.

Formative Assessment: Formative assessments will be given most weeks at the beginning of the week. These will be completed in class, allowing you to reflect on the course.

Quiz: Quizzes will be given most weeks at the end of the week. These will be completed in class and take 10 - 15 minutes to complete.

Instructor Points: The instructor will provide you with more details on this category.

Tests: There will be three unit tests. They will be in class and on paper tests. Notes and electronic devices are not allowed on any of the tests. A student who scores lower than 70% on a test **MUST**

consult with the instructor to determine a study plan and retake the test; otherwise, a score of 0 will be given. Also, the next test is not allowed to be taken until after the first retest. If a retake is given, the higher score is used with a maximum of 90%. No retakes are allowed for tests after the final exam.

Final Exam: The Final Exam is comprehensive, and everyone **MUST** take the final exam. No exceptions! Notes and electronic devices are not allowed on the final. The final exam can be taken only once; after the final, a student CANNOT retake any tests for credit.

Test Reviews: The MPLC will also have review sessions for the Final Exam and review sessions for the CST. There will be 10 bonus points for attending each session.

Evaluation	Percent of Total Grade
Computational Skills Test (CST)	10%
MyOpenMath Homework	12%
Formative Assessments	3%
Quizzes	5%
Instructor Points	10%
3 Tests	30%
Comprehensive Final Exam	30%

Course grades are based on the following scale (p = percent in class):

Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade
$93\% \leq p$	A	$83\% \leq p < 87\%$	B	$70\% \leq p < 77\%$	C
$90\% \leq p < 93\%$	A-	$80\% \leq p < 83\%$	B-	$60\% \leq p < 70\%$	D
$87\% \leq p < 90\%$	B+	$77\% \leq p < 80\%$	C+	$p < 60\%$	F

Tips for Success

Math is not a disjointed list of facts and formulas that should be remembered. Math is interconnected. When confronted with a new mathematical problem, you should identify what is new about this problem and what is based on concepts you already know. If you have forgotten these concepts, then go back and review. In fact, time should be spent every week reviewing old material. As you go through this course, create a structured review sheet. This review sheet should not just list things you should know. It should indicate how any particular part of mathematics relates to other parts of mathematics.

If you are struggling, get help right away. Ask your instructor for help when they go over homework in class. See your instructor outside of class. Get help from a friend. Go to the Math & Physics Learning Center.

If you are planning on taking a subsequent math course (or if you have to take this course again), then take that course as soon as possible while your mathematical skills remain fresh.

Academic Integrity Policy

All students are expected to abide by the University Honor Code. In mathematics classes, violations of the honor statement include copying another person's work on any graded assignment or test, collaborating on a graded assignment without the instructor's approval, using unauthorized "cheat sheets" or technical devices such as calculators, cell phones or computers for graded tests or assignments, or other such infractions. See the following link for SVSU's academic integrity policy: <https://www.svsu.edu/studentconductprograms/academicintegrity/academicintegritypolicy/>

Disability Statement

Students with disabilities that may restrict their full participation in course activities are encouraged to meet with the instructor or contact the SVSU Office of Accessibility Resources and Accommodations, Wickes 260, 964-7000, for assistance.

Non-Discrimination Statement

SVSU does not discriminate based on race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical impairment, disability, or veteran status in the provision of education, employment, and other services.

Land Acknowledgment Statement

At Saginaw Valley State University, we recognize that we are located on the ancestral homelands of the Anishinaabe, Wyandot, and Sauk. We specifically acknowledge the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe and the land ceded in the Saginaw Treaty of 1819, on which we reside. We appreciate the importance of preserving and honoring the traditions of Indigenous People who are an integral part of our shared history. As we pledge to serve as responsible stewards of the land, we endeavor for this history to inform our teaching, scholarship, and our commitment to community.

Withdrawal Policy

Please consult an advisor and Student Financial Services Center before withdrawing from any course to discuss the possible implications the withdrawal will have on your degree process and financial aid. See the following website for more detailed information about withdrawals: <https://www.svsu.edu/officeoftheregistrar/policiescatalog/withdrawals/>

Important Dates

Last day to withdraw with a 100% refund and deleted course:	Friday, January 16 th , 2026
Last day to withdraw with a 100% refund and "W" grade:	Friday, January 30 th , 2026
Last day to withdraw with a 50% refund and "W" grade:	Friday, February 13 th , 2026
Last day to withdraw with a "W" grade:	Friday, March 27 th , 2026

Tentative

This syllabus and schedule are subject to change if class needs warrant due to illness, inclement weather, etc.