



FALL 2025

KNOWLEDGE IS **POWER**



**Dr. Sheyleah
Harris-Plant**
(she, her, hers)

DR. HP

Welcome to Foundations of Algebra

**Meets on Monday and Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. in the
Mathematics and Engineering building room 124 in
Levelland, TX**

Are you ready to explore and fill in the gaps of arithmetic operations and basic algebraic concepts? As your instructor, I am looking forward to providing you the opportunity to acquire and practice the math skills needed to be successful in your future math classes.

**Student Help Sessions (A.K.A. Office Hours)
Levelland Campus (M120A):**

Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Lubbock Downtown Center (B001):

Mondays and Wednesdays 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Mondays and Wednesdays 7:40 pm - 8:10 pm

Online (Virtual) (Link on Blackboard):

Tuesdays 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Wednesdays 10:00 am - 11:00 am

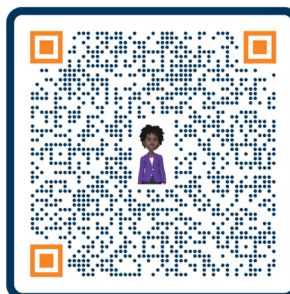
Thursdays 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Fridays 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

or by appointment

(scan QR code or use the link to make an appointment)

[Schedule an appointment](#)



CONTENTS

- 1** What will we learn in this class?
- 2** What are we required to do in this class?
- 3** How do we pass this class?
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PH: 806-716-2665

MATH BUILDING 120A

SHARRIS@SOUTHPLAINSCOLLEGE.EDU

What are we required to do for this class?

Our classroom is face-to-face. This means the lecture and some assignments are completed in class, while the practice (homework) and tutoring occur outside class.

Practice (homework) problems will be assigned daily. The lecture notes, practice (homework) problems, assignments, and exams should be kept in a binder as a portfolio to serve as a textbook and study guide.

Objective quizzes will be taken in class after lectures are complete. The corrected objective quizzes will be kept in your portfolio as a study guide.

I am a resource to help you learn. If you need help, ask after you have tried the topic.

Our focus is on learning and mastery of the material.

COURSE LEARNING GOALS

At the end of the semester, we will be able to:

- Perform basic arithmetic operations on integers, fractions, and decimals
- Perform calculations involving exponents and order of operations
- Solve application problems involving proportions, percent, and fractions
- Simplify algebraic expressions and solve linear equations
- Solve application problems involving linear models
- Graph linear equations in two variables
- Apply rules of exponents
- Perform operations on polynomials.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES & OPTIONAL TEXTS

Writing Utensil



8.5 inch x 11 inch paper



Printed Notes from Blackboard



Good Internet Connection



No Calculator



Large 3-ring binder with dividers



Prealgebra, 2nd ed.
OpenStax
ISBN 9781951693190

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MATH BUILDING 120A

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What are the assignments for this class?

Required Tutoring Lab Attendance (Worth 1 point each)

- You must attend the tutoring lab provided by South Plains College to get assistance and practice for 60 minutes (1 hour) weekly. For thirteen (13) weeks, with three (3) weeks being extra credit.
- When you arrive at the Tutoring Lab, check in on the Penji app to get credit for your attendance.
- A week is from Monday through Friday.
- Your grade will be computed by finding the ratio of the minutes you attended the tutoring lab over the required 60 minutes.

Objective Quizzes (Worth 0.2 point each)

Objective quizzes will be given and completed in class after the lecture without notes or practice problems. Students can choose which set of objectives they want to attempt each class meeting. Each objective quiz can be attempted up to seven (7) times. The objectives can be demonstrated as mastered through ten (10) opportunities on objective quizzes and exams. There are seventy-five (75) objectives assessed on twenty-four (24) objective quizzes with no extra credit.

Objective quizzes will be graded by mastery. Each question will be graded as:

- Mastery Demonstrated (M)
- Proficiency Demonstrated (P)
- Adequate Progress Demonstrated (AP)
- Insufficient Mastery Demonstrated (IM)
- Little Understanding Demonstrated (LU)
- Not Attempted (NA)

An objective will be graded as:

- Mastered (0.2 points)
 - 80% of the objective's questions have earned either Mastery Demonstrated (M) or Proficiency Demonstrated (P)
- Progressing (0.1 points)
 - 60% to 79.99% of the objective's questions have earned either Mastery Demonstrated (M), Proficiency Demonstrated (P), or Adequate Progress Demonstrated (AP)
- Needs Improvement (0 points)
 - 0% to 59.99% of the objective's questions have earned either Mastery Demonstrated (M), Proficiency Demonstrated (P), or Adequate Progress Demonstrated (AP)

Unit Portfolios (Worth 1 point each)

Your binder will be collected on exam days to be graded. The lecture notes, practice (homework) problems, quizzes, corrected quizzes, reviews, exams, and corrected exams will be kept in a binder as a portfolio. This portfolio will serve as a textbook and study guide, so keeping it organized and up to date is important. There will be three (3) portfolio checks over the semester with no extra credit.

Unit Exams (Worth 20 points each)

These are free-response assessments. Students can not use their notes or practice problems. Any missed exam will not be allowed to be made up later. The purpose of the assignment is to give us a snapshot of the mastery of the unit material at that time. There will be two (2) exams over the semester with no extra credit.

Learning Reflections (Worth 1 points each)

These are free-response surveys to reflect, review mistakes, and learn from them. The assignment will be graded by completion. There will be two (2) surveys over the semester, due with the unit exams, with no extra credit.

Final Exam (Worth 30 points)

Comprehensive free-response assessment that you can not use your notes or practice problems. If you do not attempt the Final Exam you will earn an F for the class even if enough points to pass has been earned. There will only be one assignment at the end of the semester.

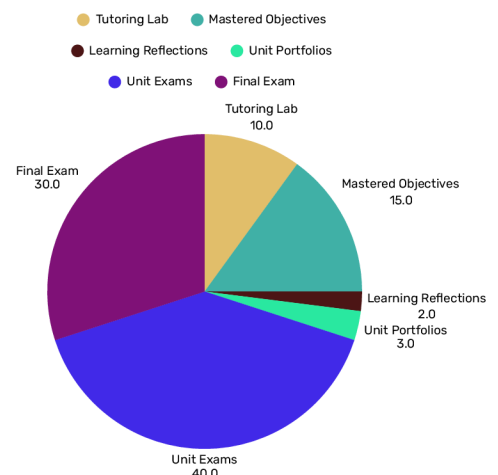
ASSIGNMENT WEIGHTS

The 100 point system is used for grading and will be the highest grade reported at the end of the semester. All assignments will add up to 100 points.

89.5 and above earn an A
79.5 - 89.49 earn a B
69.5 - 79.49 earn a C
59.5 - 69.49 earn a D
59.49 and below earn an F

- Tutoring Lab: 10 points
- Mastered Objectives: 15 points
- Learning Reflections: 2 points
- Unit Portfolios: 3 points
- Unit Exams: 40 points
- Final Exam: 30 points

To find the relative (percentage) grade, divide the total points by the possible points and multiply by 100.



Participation Expectations

Accountability

If you miss class or fall behind for any reason, all notes presented in class will be on the Class OneNote Notebook for you to access. Unfortunately, I cannot repeat material or change the schedule for the entire class. Late coursework is not accepted, nor will be allowed to be taken or submitted after the due date.

Communication

Communication is key. If you have an emergency, please let me know by email or phone immediately. Letting me know the following day or later makes it difficult for me to discern and assess your situation. Therefore, this makes it harder to help and work with you.

Integrity

The focus of higher education is to foster learning and encourage critical thinking. While taking shortcuts to save time or earn a grade may seem like a good idea, the results usually are lower scores and losing the opportunity to learn material. The consequences of being caught cheating could be between a zero on the assignment to being expelled from South Plains College.

Reasonable Flexibility

Extra credit points are available for all students. If you should miss an assignment deadline those extra credit points can "replace" the missed points.

EXPECTATIONS OF INSTRUCTOR

- Show up, as scheduled.
- Provide notice of any schedule changes.
- Keep Blackboard updated with grades and materials.
- Present the material in a way that the majority of the class can understand.
- Be available to those who need assistance outside of the classroom, by e-mail or in person, during office hours or scheduled appointment times.
- Maintain the course calendar and assignments.
- Uphold the policies of the college.
- Respect each student and provide the opportunity to discuss the material presented.
- Provide examinations based on the information discussed in course material.

WEB & EMAIL

Messages Should Include



Your first and last name



Your class name and section



Your questions and/or comments in the body of the email (not subject line)

I Will



Check my email regularly during weekdays before 7:00 pm



Do my best to respond within 24 hours

I Will Not



Always respond immediately on weekends or holidays



Respond to parents or counselors. You are the student in an adult class and should communicate for yourself

Success Roadmap

Take Notes in Class

Each section has lecture notes presented in class in the Class OneNote Notebook. If you should miss class, the lecture notes can be found in the Class OneNote Notebook.

Practice Math Skills

Each lecture includes worked-out examples and additional practice exercises for you to complete. Each lecture includes practice problems to help you hone your math skills.

Check Gradscope Feedback

The feedback for the Objective Quizzes and Midterm Exams will be given on Gradscope before the next class meeting. Gradscope is used to allow students to maximize their time to review, study, and practice between class meetings.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- **Communications skills**—to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Empirical and quantitative competency skills**—to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions

MATHEMATICAL PRACTICES TO IMPROVE

1. Making sense of problems and persisting while solving them.
2. Engaging in productive struggle with mathematics problems.
3. Productively collaborate with others.
4. Communicate through mathematical writing.

We Remember

by Edgar Dale

10% of what we read

20% of what we hear

30% of what we see

50% of what we see and hear

70% of what we say and write

90% of what we do

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Avoid distractions (cell phone, social media, games, television, or open tabs and windows on your device) when watching and working through lecture videos
- Use the resources (notes, extra videos on Blackboard, free tutoring through the college, each other, and myself) available to you
- Don't hesitate to ask for help and always communicate
- Be sure to complete the assigned work
- Read the feedback given to you on graded work to improve your skills
- Save all of your notes and work

MATHEMATICAL PRACTICES TO IMPROVE

1. MAKING SENSE OF PROBLEMS AND PERSISTING WHILE SOLVING THEM.
2. ENGAGING IN PRODUCTIVE STRUGGLE WITH MATHEMATICS PROBLEMS.
3. PRODUCTIVELY COLLABORATE WITH OTHERS.
4. COMMUNICATE THROUGH MATHEMATICAL WRITING.

Student Resources

Class Resources

In our Blackboard course, there are a lot of resources to help us be successful.

- There are video playlists in the Additional Videos folder for objective skills. Please keep in mind that the videos are in a playlist, and you will need to choose the required video from the list provided by the menu icon on the upper right.
- Under Additional Resources, there are study tips, prerequisite math rules, graph paper, and online resources.

Free SPC Tutoring

South Plains College provides free tutoring to students. The most current schedule can be found at

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/exploreprograms/artsandsciences/teacheredtutoring.php> or this QR Code



SPC Policies

South Plains College policies concerning diversity, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, and Campus Concealed Carry Statements can be found here:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/> or this QR Code.



South Plains College policies, return to campus plan, and protocols regarding COVID-19 can be found here: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/emergency/covid19-faq.php>.



The person who asks a question is a fool for five minutes, they who does not ask a question remains a fool forever.

- Chinese Proverb

I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have.

- Thomas Jefferson

Learning is never done without errors and defeat.

- Vladimir Lenin

However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at.

- Stephen Hawking

Your talents and abilities will improve over time, but for that, you have to start.

- Martin Luther King, Jr

REAL LIFE EMERGENCY HELP

Sometimes life happens and we need help. This is the reason the South Plains College Health and Wellness Center has provided a list of emergency resources. This list includes, but is not limited to community food assistance, help paying bills, and other free or reduced cost programs. To find this list, please click on the *Emergency Resources* tab, and click the linked here. The Health and Wellness Center site is found at <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/health/studenthealth.php> or this QR Code



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Applications Used

Gradescope

We will use Gradescope this term, which allows us to provide fast and accurate feedback on your work. Homework will be submitted through Gradescope, and homework and exam grades will be returned through Gradescope. As soon as grades are posted, you will be notified immediately so that you can log in and see your feedback. You may also submit regrade requests if you feel that there is a mistake in the grading.

You can use your phone's camera or another scanner to upload work to Gradescope. Download the Gradescope mobile app on the **App Store** or **Google Play** to use your phone's camera and follow the prompts. If you cannot scan your assignments for any reason, please get in touch with me to make alternative arrangements. All submissions to Gradescope must be clear, legible, and double-checked to ensure all answers are properly marked. You will receive an email confirmation once your assignment is successfully submitted; please retain this for your records.

Blackboard

We will use Blackboard this term, which allows is our Learning Management System (LMS). It will house all of the course materials, resources, and grades. The gradebook will automatically give a zero for any assignment not graded by the due date. Do not worry if you submitted your assignment, I will change the grade once the assignment is graded.

Download the Blackboard mobile app on the **App Store** or **Google Play** to have mobile access to Blackboard.

Fall 2025 MATH-0305 Tentative Calendar

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Tutoring Lab Due	Learning Reflection Due	Portfolio Due	Exam Due
1	Mon	25 Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none">IntroductionMath Study Skills 1: Tips for Success in Math ClassesNotes 1: Adding & Subtracting Whole Numbers (including basic facts)	Not due this week	Wed, 24 Sep by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class	Mon, 29 Sep by 13:00 (1:00 pm) In Class	Mon, 29 Sep by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class
	Tue	26 Aug					
	Wed	27 Aug					
	Thu	28 Aug					
	Fri	29 Aug					
2	Mon	1 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Math Study Skills 2: Time ManagementNotes 2: Multiplying & Dividing Whole Numbers (including basic facts)Notes 3: Introduction to Integers, Absolute Value, Additive Inverses, Adding & Subtracting Integers	No School – Labor Day			
	Tue	2 Sep		Fri, 5 Sep by 15:00 (3:00 pm)	Wed, 24 Sep by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class	Mon, 29 Sep by 13:00 (1:00 pm) In Class	Mon, 29 Sep by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class
	Wed	3 Sep					
	Thu	4 Sep					
	Fri	5 Sep					
3	Mon	8 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Math Study Skills 3: Overcoming AnxietyNotes 4: Multiplying & Dividing IntegersNotes 5: Evaluating Exponents, Prime Factoring & Square Roots	Fri, 12 Sep by 15:00 (3:00 pm)	Wed, 24 Sep by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class	Mon, 29 Sep by 13:00 (1:00 pm) In Class	Mon, 29 Sep by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class
	Tue	9 Sep					
	Wed	10 Sep					
	Thu	11 Sep					
	Fri	12 Sep					
4	Mon	15 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Math Study Skills 4: Preparing for a Math TestNotes 6: Finding Greatest Common Factor (GCF) & Least Common Multiple (LCM)Notes 7: Simplifying Fractions, Finding Reciprocals, Multiplying & Dividing Fractions	Fri, 19 Sep by 15:00 (3:00 pm)	Wed, 24 Sep by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class	Mon, 29 Sep by 13:00 (1:00 pm) In Class	Mon, 29 Sep by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class
	Tue	16 Sep					
	Wed	17 Sep					
	Thu	18 Sep					
	Fri	19 Sep					

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Tutoring Lab Due	Learning Reflection Due	Portfolio Due	Exam Due
5	Mon	22 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Math Study Skills 5: Math Test-Taking Strategies Notes 8: Adding & Subtracting Fractions; Mixed Numbers Unit 1 Exam Review (Weeks 1–5) 	Fri, 26 Sep by 15:00 (3:00 pm)	Wed, 24 Sep by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class	Mon, 29 Sep by 13:00 (1:00 pm) In Class	Mon, 29 Sep by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class
	Tue	23 Sep					
	Wed	24 Sep					
	Thu	25 Sep					
	Fri	26 Sep					
6	Mon	29 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 1 Exam (Weeks 1-5) Notes 9: Decimal Places, Adding & Subtracting Decimals 	Fri, 3 Oct by 15:00 (3:00 pm)	Mon, 3 Nov by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class	Wed, 5 Nov by 13:00 (1:00 pm) In Class	Wed, 5 Nov by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class
	Tue	30 Sep					
	Wed	1 Oct					
	Thu	2 Oct					
	Fri	3 Oct					
7	Mon	6 Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Math Study Skills 6: After Math Test Behavior Notes 10: Multiplying & Dividing Decimals Notes 11: Percents, Converting Between Fractions, Decimals & Percents 	Fri, 10 Oct by 15:00 (3:00 pm)	Mon, 3 Nov by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class	Wed, 5 Nov by 13:00 (1:00 pm) In Class	Wed, 5 Nov by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class
	Tue	7 Oct					
	Wed	8 Oct					
	Thu	9 Oct					
	Fri	10 Oct					
8	Mon	13 Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Math Study Skills 7: How to Read & Use Class Material Notes 12: Order of Operations Notes 13: Evaluating Algebraic Expressions 	Fri, 17 Oct by 15:00 (3:00 pm)	Mon, 3 Nov by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class	Wed, 5 Nov by 13:00 (1:00 pm) In Class	Wed, 5 Nov by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class
	Tue	14 Oct					
	Wed	15 Oct					
	Thu	16 Oct					
	Fri	17 Oct					

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Tutoring Lab Due	Learning Reflection Due	Portfolio Due	Exam Due
9	Mon	20 Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Math Study Skills 8: Using Available Resources Notes 14: Solving One-Step and Two-Step Equations (include single fraction) Notes 15: Solving Multi-Step Equations 	Fri, 24 Oct by 15:00 (3:00 pm)	Mon, 3 Nov by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class	Wed, 5 Nov by 13:00 (1:00 pm) In Class	Wed, 5 Nov by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class
	Tue	21 Oct					
	Wed	22 Oct					
	Thu	23 Oct					
	Fri	24 Oct					
10	Mon	27 Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Math Study Skills 9: Note Taking for Math Notes 16: Percent Equations, Applications of Linear Equations Notes 17: Solving Linear Inequalities 	Fri, 31 Oct by 15:00 (3:00 pm)	Mon, 3 Nov by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class	Wed, 5 Nov by 13:00 (1:00 pm) In Class	Wed, 5 Nov by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class
	Tue	28 Oct					
	Wed	29 Oct					
	Thu	30 Oct					
	Fri	31 Oct					
11	Mon	3 Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 Exam Review (Weeks 1–10) Unit 2 Exam (Weeks 1-10) 	Fri, 7 Nov by 15:00 (3:00 pm)	Mon, 3 Nov by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class	Wed, 5 Nov by 13:00 (1:00 pm) In Class	Wed, 5 Nov by 14:15 (2:15 pm) In Class
	Tue	4 Nov					
	Wed	5 Nov					
	Thu	6 Nov					
	Fri	7 Nov					
12	Mon	10 Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Math Study Skills 10: Improving Memory Notes 18: Rules of Exponents, Part 1 Notes 19: Rules of Exponents, Part 2 	Fri, 14 Nov by 15:00 (3:00 pm)	No more due	Wed, 10 Dec by 10:15 (10:15 am) In Class	Wed, 10 Dec by 12:15 (12:15 pm) In Class
	Tue	11 Nov					
	Wed	12 Nov					
	Thu	13 Nov					
	Fri	14 Nov					

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Tutoring Lab Due	Learning Reflection Due	Portfolio Due	Exam Due
13	Mon	17 Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Math Study Skills 11: Preparing for a Math Final ExamNotes 20: More with Rules of ExponentsNotes 21: Intro to Polynomials; Add, Subtract, Multiply Polynomials (including 2 variables), Divide by a Monomial	Fri, 21 Nov by 15:00 (3:00 pm)	No more due	Wed, 10 Dec by 10:15 (10:15 am) In Class	Wed, 10 Dec by 12:15 (12:15 pm) In Class
	Tue	18 Nov					
	Wed	19 Nov					
	Thu	20 Nov					
	Fri	21 Nov					
14	Mon	24 Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Notes 22: Coordinate Plane BasicsNotes 23: Intro to Lines & Slope	Not due this week	No more due	Wed, 10 Dec by 10:15 (10:15 am) In Class	Wed, 10 Dec by 12:15 (12:15 pm) In Class
	Tue	25 Nov		No School – Thanksgiving Break			
	Wed	26 Nov					
	Thu	27 Nov					
	Fri	28 Nov					
15	Mon	1 Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Notes 24: Graphing Linear EquationsComprehensive Final Exam Review (Weeks 1-15)	Fri, 5 Dec by 15:00 (3:00 pm)	No more due	Wed, 10 Dec by 10:15 (10:15 am)	Wed, 10 Dec by 12:15 (12:15 pm) In Class
	Tue	2 Dec		<i>Last Day to Drop a Class</i>			
	Wed	3 Dec					
	Thu	4 Dec		In Class			
	Fri	5 Dec					
16	Mon	8 Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Study for the Comprehensive Final Exam (Weeks 1-15)	Not due this week	No more due	Wed, 10 Dec by 10:15 (10:15 am) In Class	Wed, 10 Dec by 12:15 (12:15 pm) In Class
	Tue	9 Dec					
	Wed	10 Dec	Comprehensive Final Exam (Weeks 1-15) from 10:15 (10:15 am) until 12:15 (12:15 pm) In Class				
	Thu	11 Dec	No Class – Class Ended				
	Fri	12 Dec	Graduation				