FAQ’s for Online Calculus

How does an online class work?
Since we will not meet face-to-face, you will need to complete most of your work using a computer (you may use computer labs on campus, public library, etc.). All course information will be posted or linked at the course website: www.math.wichita.edu/~axmann. You will “attend” class by subscribing to the online lecture during class time (10:30 – 11:20 M-F) or by watching/listening later in the day. During class time, you will be able to ask questions as we go through the material.

How can I be successful in an online class?
“Attend” class EVERY day or watch it soon afterwards – there is a lot of information presented in class that is not in the book. Complete online and email homework EVERY day. Ask questions through email or come to my office. If your computer breaks down or you have other technical problems at the last minute you may not be able to access lectures or tests with a time limit. Always try to have a backup plan in mind, should something go wrong. Computer breakdowns are not an excuse to stop working. Find a computer on campus, go to a friend’s house or to the local library and get your work in on time.

Am I technically prepared for an online class?
You should be able to:
- Connect to the internet with a high speed connection
- Install Java (directions on course website)
- Listen to audio on your computer (may need headphones at public computers)

How do I submit homework assignments?
Most homework is done online in WebAssign, www.webassign.com, and the scores are submitted automatically. Keep reworking the homework until you get 100% (or close to it) on every assignment. Due dates/times are 12:30 – a bit after class. You can have extensions on a few assignments throughout the semester, just click on the Extension Request button in WebAssign. It is usually better to do the work late and get the practice than to miss an assignment. I will also occasionally assign book homework during class – you can write your solutions using LearnMath (the same software you use for the online lectures) and email them too me. I will provide more details on how to do this as class goes on.

Will there be tests?
Yes. There are 4 tests that you can take on-campus by arrangement or as “take-homes”. I would strongly recommend you take them on-campus. See the syllabus for grading details. Your midterm and final exams will be in-person on WSU campus.
How is this course different from the traditional course offered on campus? The only difference is that lectures (and optionally tests) are done online to meet the needs of students with time and location restraints.

Although the course may be more convenient for you than a face-to-face class, the standards are the same. If you do not have the time or energy to wholeheartedly engage in the class, you probably should not continue in it.

Can I see my grades? You can view your homework grades at any time on WebAssign – you can request updates on your test grades by email.

One last note: Remember, this course will be very challenging! You are attempting to complete an calculus course ONLINE. This course will require quite a bit of time and commitment on your part, so set plenty of time aside and be prepared!

Instructor information: Email your questions to me at axmann@math.wichita.edu My office phone number is 316.978.3969.