

To Math 1050 Instructors
January 2012

Thank you for teaching Math 1050 College Algebra. As you should know, last summer SLCC began student e-Portfolios. Every general education class, which includes Math 1050, will be assigning a signature assignment for students to include in their e-Portfolios. Each of your students will post at least one of the class projects into their personal e-Portfolio. This may still be completed as a group project, but each student will need to post a project and write *their own* reflections at the end.

You are *not* responsible for teaching students to set-up or use their e-Portfolio. The signature assignments are the project-based labs that are available on the math departmental web page (on the syllabus). Direct them to the information in the departmental syllabus for more information. You *do* need to verify that the assignment has been placed into the e-Portfolio. It is recommended that you make this a requirement necessary for them to receive a grade for the project.

We will continue to use the three project-based labs that were done this last fall. They are the Transportation Costs lab, the Mortgage lab, and the Least Squares lab. You are responsible for assigning at least two of these to your class. On the calendars, you will see that all three have intro and due dates already. Unless you are assigning all three, determine which one you are not doing and remove that one from the calendar. Remember that a minimum of two is required.

I want to talk briefly about reviews. I have placed review days on the calendars. If you meet for 50 minutes, you have the whole class for the review. If you have a longer block class, the review and the test are placed on the same day. This is not set in stone. Depending on your teaching style, you may prefer to redo the schedule to have a review in a block setting on the day before a test, or remove the reviews from in class altogether. I have made the calendar suggestions based on what the department has shared works the best in most cases.

As always, note the departmental calculator restrictions, the grading policies, and the final exam information in the departmental syllabus. In particular, note that all material in the calendar/schedule must be covered and the departmental final exam is mandatory. A graphing calculator will be allowed on the final this semester, so make sure your students know this. Conduct yourself in ways that uphold departmental and subject standards!

The final has been moved to the 3:40 pm to 5:40 pm time slot for Spring 2012, so make sure your students know of this change. This doesn't apply to evening classes.

For those of you that are looking for new ways to teach, or insights into teaching at this level, the publisher has made available mini lecture notes for each section we teach. They can be found at the following site: http://media.pearsoncmg.com/ph/esm/esm_sullivan_sca9e/sca9e_hide/sca9e_mln_launch.html

Different Homework Options:

This semester, you are allowed to require your class use the MML for homework, and handle any ADA issues on a case by case basis. Therefore, below are some options you may choose:

1. **No MML.** Grade book based homework only. Students can use the generic MML course for their own additional practice. The generic MML 1050 code is [slcc25065](#). Give this code to your students if you don't plan on doing anything online. They can use a lot of resources with this code. Note there will be nobody monitoring this course. It is only for practice. This version contains all the features of MML but does not include any due dates. Students can also get some extra practice by going to www.interactmath.com and linking to many different textbooks. They will be able to view examples and get extra practice, but there is no gradebook at this site. It is

a free resource, so students will be able to sell back their MML code if they don't want the extra resources that come with that option.

2. MML Homework. I am currently designing the MML course that will have the homework and quizzes that equal the book work. It is not yet finished, but will be by Christmas. The code to copy is [smith13746](#). You will need to copy this course and then you can provide your own course code for your students to use. I suggest you wait to copy it until after Christmas. You will be able to edit it and change grade weights, due dates, etc. The course will not have due dates assigned, so that will be up to you.
3. Don't assign homework at all. You will have to provide some other assessment device(s). Weekly quizzes can be used as a motivator for students to practice on their own, for example. This option won't work for many students as they need external motivation to practice. This option allows your students variety on which way they want to practice. They can use the generic MML code [slcc25065](#) for practice, including the MML study plan, the book homework set, www.interactmath.com, or other web resources like Purplemath.com, and YouTube videos.
4. These are the obvious options, but others can be a blend of live and online homework, written work handed in, etc.

Again, thank you for teaching College Algebra. Have a good semester.

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