

### **What is the Math Emporium?**

The Math Emporium (ME) is a computer learning center designed to help students learn math by interacting with a team of instructors and the ALEKS math software program.

### **What principles guide the Math Emporium?**

When taking a Math Emporium course, students spend most of their time **doing** math problems rather than listening to someone talk about doing them. Students spend more time on the topics and concepts they don't understand, rather than rehashing what they have already mastered. Students have greater access to assistance from multiple sources, both inside and outside of the ME classroom. Students are required to master mathematical skills and develop mathematical understandings. Students gain instant feedback on their work and can accelerate through content and courses.

### **Which students attend the Math Emporium?**

Students needing to take Math 99 (Algebra Review) or Math 1220 (College Algebra 2) will participate in the Math Emporium.

### **Are the Math Emporium courses online courses?**

No. These are not online courses. ALEKS is the Web-based software that students use in the Math Emporium classes. The students work closely with the instructional team in the Math Emporium. In fact, there are enough instructional staff members in the Math Emporium at all times to have a student to faculty ratio of 15 to 1 in order to help students and individually answer questions.

### **Are the Math Emporium courses taught in a large computer lab?**

No. The courses are taught in a newly-renovated instructional space that holds up to 80 students. In this space, students have access to MacBook Airs, or they can bring their own devices to interact with the mathematical content. However, for exams, students must use the ME laptops.

### **Is the Math Emporium an open lab?**

No. Students attend the Math Emporium based upon their class schedule! We believe it is imperative that students know their Instructor of record, and that the Instructors know their students.

### **In such a large class, are students going to get lost in the shuffle?**

By maintaining a set instructional team for each class, students can receive assistance when they need it. We have designed the student experience so that a consistent team of Instructors and Assistants provides individualized coaching and ensures that students successfully complete their course!

### **Who is on the instructional team? What are their roles?**

The instructional team consists of faculty, graduate student instructors, and undergraduate students who provide one-on-one coaching to all students. In addition, instructors monitor student progress and team members proactively approach students to assist them.

### **How does a Math Emporium class differ from a traditional math class?**

In a traditional math class, all students study the same materials at the same time. Students progress through the class together. The Math Emporium uses the ALEKS computer-based software program to determine what students know and what they need to learn. This allows each student to focus on learning the information they do not know. The instructional team functions as coaches, providing individualized teaching and support. Periodically there are progressive assessments, in addition to Midterm Exams and a comprehensive Final Exam.

### **What happens in a typical Math Emporium class?**

Students access information and learn using the ALEKS software program. Students can work together or by themselves to master the mathematical content. ALEKS tracks student progress as they complete their weekly goals and requirements.

### **How can students advance through the program more quickly?**

After an initial assessment, students begin working day one in ALEKS, learning content based on their prior math knowledge. Corresponding learning activities are assigned to fill in detected gaps and then assessments are administered to determine whether those gaps have been addressed. Acceleration through the material occurs since the program is self-paced and activities are individually assigned to address the gaps in student knowledge. As a consequence, students that are ready to proceed are permitted to do so instead of waiting for all students, as in a traditional class.

### **Is it really possible to get more than one class done in a semester?**

Certainly! Not only can students finish ONE course in a semester, but motivated students can finish TWO courses in a semester. If a student finishes everything in Math 99 before the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> week of the semester, they can then move on to Math 1220 for the second eight weeks of the semester.