

BGSU Math Emporium FAQs

What is the Math Emporium?

The Math Emporium is a state-of-the-art computer learning center designed to help students learn math by interacting with a team of instructors and the MyLabsPlus math software program.

Which students attend the Math Emporium?

Students take a placement assessment to determine which math courses they need.

Students who need additional math preparation to succeed in college will be matched with the appropriate course of study in the Math Emporium.

What courses will be taught in the Math Emporium?

Currently, it is Math 90X (Basic Algebra), Math 95X (Intermediate Algebra) and Math 1210 (College Algebra 1) and in 2014, Math 1220 (College Algebra 2) will be added to the mix. The first three of these courses are designated by the state of Ohio's Math Transfer Module Committee to be remedial mathematics course which means that the content covered in the courses have already be seen by the students previously in high school at or below the Algebra 1 level. In 2014, Math 1220 that covers the content consistent with a high school Algebra 2 course will also be added.

How can students get a jump start or advance through the program more quickly?

After an initial assessment, students can on day one of class begin working through the MyLabsPlus site as it diagnoses what content and understandings the student holds and does not hold. 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 in a traditional class to achieve competency with the material.

In the future, we are expecting to modularize the courses so that once students begin a course, they may quickly move forward in the sequence and potentially complete up to four courses in one semester.

Are the Math Emporium courses online courses?

No. These are not online courses. MyLabsPlus is Web-based software that students use in the Math Emporium or remotely. The students work closely with the instructional team in the Math Emporium. In fact, there is at least two instructional staff members in the Math Emporium at all times to help students and individually answer their questions.

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

The instructional team consists of teaching faculty (that also serve as the instructor of record, i.e. assign final grades, release quizzes and tests, etc) and trained graduate students who provide one-on-one coaching to individual students. In addition, faculty will monitor each student's progress and team members will proactively approach students to assist them.

How do faculty monitor the performance of students in their classes?

The MyLabsPlus software provides a detailed accounting for each student including what they are working on, how they are doing and what they have learned. BGSU Math Emporium faculty can see students' details, responses to questions, time spent on each topic and what they have studied in class and outside of class. In addition, the instructors will reach out students to discuss their progress.

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Which math software program is used and how does it work?

MyLabsPlus is an interactive software program designed to help students learn. As a student works through a course, they go through a series of quizzes, tests and exams to ascertain whether the topics learned are also retained. MyLabsPlus provides the advantage of one-on-one instruction.

Why do students have to go to a specific facility to participate in the Math Emporium?

The current BGSU Math Emporium is housed in the newly renovated Innovative teaching space on the second floor of Olscamp Hall. We decided to have students attend the Math Emporium based upon the normal schedule instead of making it an open lab setting that is the case with many other colleges and universities across the country that have implemented Math Emporium. In particular, we feel as though it is imperative that students know the faculty member that is their instructor of record just as much as the faculty member knows the students. In doing so, we have designed the students experience so that a consistent team of instructors provides individualized coaching and ensures students are making adequate progress. In addition, students can receive assistance when they need it. Also, assessments are given in an academic setting. In addition, we have purposely under-enrolled the classes so that students that are in other time slots can come into the Emporium to either work ahead or test.

How does a Math Emporium Class differ from a Traditional Core Math class?

Traditional math students study the same materials at the same time under an instructor. Students progress through the class together.

The Math Emporium uses a computer-based software program to determine what students know and what they need to learn. This allows each student to manage his/her study time to focus on learning the information they do not know. The lead professor and the instructional team function as coaches, providing individualized teaching and support. Periodically there is a progressive assessment that each student takes. At the end of the class, there is a comprehensive assessment. There are also online resources:

- The MyLabsPlus Help feature
- eBook – fully interactive; can be personalized (highlighting, post-it-notes, etc.)
- Instructional videos – to go with the text
- Personalized Study Plan
- Team of instructors

What happens in a typical Math Emporium class?

Students access math information and learn by using the MyLabsPlus computer software program. Students can monitor their progress by reviewing their course plan that shows what they know and what they still need to learn. The instructional team provides individualized assistance.

How do students receive assistance during and outside of class hours?

During class hours, students can access the help button, a computer-based eBook and instructional video. They can also ask members of the instructional team for assistance. Outside of scheduled hours, they have access to all of these resources including access to the instructional team during open hours in the learning center. Students can also access the software program remotely.

How do students monitor their learning and progress?

Students can see their progress by reviewing their personal course plan, included in the MyLabsPlus software.