

## **How to Be Successful in Computation Methods**

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As we all know, engineering classes are not the type of classes that can be studied for a test the same day or even two or three days before. Computational Methods is not different than any other class that we have taken before; the ultimate result is directly proportional to the time spent working on the course. Computational methods is a class that bases itself in all that has been taught in the previous mathematical courses, so my first advice is to make sure that you refresh your calculus and differential equations basic concepts.

My second advice is to keep up with the reading for the class—we covered five hundred pages during the course of the semester. It is of extreme importance to read all the pages especially the application problems, not only because test questions might come out of those problems but also gives the student an idea of the problems he or she will encounter when they start exercising their career. The third advice is to make sure to do a lot of problems and not to stop at the ones listed in the book; look for other resources. The only way to learn math is through repetition, double check answers in this course the deal with a lot of small numbers, double checking the numbers and making sure the use of significant figures is used correctly will help the student get accurate answers.

Finally do all the extra credit assignments as well as the MATLAB projects even though they are worth a small percentage. They can make the difference between a whole letter grade. Always be prepared in class. Working the problems with the professor during class will help gain a greater understanding rather than waiting to do them at home. At last simply enjoy the class and laugh along with Dr. Kaw.