Using WebAssign

• **HOW TO LOG IN:** Log in using your Penn State WebAccess account ID and password at

  [https://www.webassign.net/psu/student.html](https://www.webassign.net/psu/student.html)

• **START ASSIGNMENTS ASAP:** Homework will be posted on a daily basis and will be due the following week. Assignments posted on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday will be due at 8:00am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, respectively, of the following week. **Extensions will not be granted if you wait until the last minute and encounter technical problems that prevent you from completing an assignment.**

• **KEEP YOUR WORK:** Write up each online homework problem as if you are going to turn in your work. Write your solutions as neatly as possible so that you can use them as a reference. Solutions will be posted after the due date so that you can check your work. Later, you can then use your work to study for quizzes and/or exams.

• **FIVE ATTEMPTS:** Unless you are assigned a multiple choice problem, you will have five attempts to answer each problem correctly. Full credit will be given for each problem you answer correctly, regardless of how many of your five attempts you use. You may submit your answer to each problem individually. In other words, you do not have to complete the entire assignment to check your answer to a particular problem.

  For a multiple choice problem, the number of attempts you have to answer the problem correctly will be one less than the number of choices. For example, you will have one attempt to answer a true/false question and 3 attempts to answer a problem with 4 multiple choice answers.

  Once you have submitted an assignment in WebAssign, your score is automatically recorded in WebAssign. There is nothing else you have to do to complete/submit your homework.

• **ENTER THE EXACT VALUE:** Put your calculator away. Do all of your work by hand to get the exact value of your answer. WebAssign contains a calcPad that allows you to easily input complex mathematical expressions, so whenever possible, enter the exact value into WebAssign.

  The only time you should use your calculator is when after you have completed the problem by hand, you are expected to enter a decimal approximation to your answer and WebAssign does not allow you to enter the exact value. Otherwise, enter the exact value!

  Never use decimal approximations for any numbers before getting the final answer, even if WebAssign tells you to enter your answer correct to three decimal places. For example, using 0.333 instead of 1/3 before you have completed the problem can produce round-off error and will lead to a final answer that could be extremely close to the correct answer, but is still incorrect.

• **IT’S NOT WORKING!!!** Don’t get frustrated. If WebAssign says that your answer is wrong, try your best to figure out your mistake. Finding your own mistakes is difficult at first, but the more aware you are of the type of mistakes you tend to make, the less often you’ll find yourself making those mistakes!

  If you can’t find your error, then ask your instructor, a classmate, or a friend. Most importantly, do not waste an hour staring at a single problem that WebAssign marked wrong. Move on to the next problem or work on another assignment for a different class and come back to that problem later. This is where it really pays off to start the assignment as soon as possible.

  If WebAssign isn’t behaving as expected, make sure you are using an appropriate web browser. I haven’t heard of any problems using WebAssign on Firefox ([http://www.mozilla.com/firefox/](http://www.mozilla.com/firefox/)).

  If WebAssign still isn’t behaving, try restarting your computer. This seems to clear up most technical problems you may encounter. If you have any questions whatsoever, please do not hesitate to contact me (dlittle@psu.edu).

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• **READ THE TEXTBOOK:** Each problem in WebAssign is similar to a problem in the book. In particular, every problem has a code associated with it which is located in the upper right corner of the statement of the problem. For example, the code “SCalc7 4.2.031” means that the problem is very similar to exercise number 31 at the end of Chapter 4, Section 2 of Stewart’s Calculus 7e. If you are having difficulty answering a problem, go back to the appropriate section of the book (or class notes or student solutions manual) and see if you can find a similar problem that is already worked out.

• **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

WebAssign has a tremendous amount of resources at your disposal. While the use of each one of these resources is optional, you may find that they are extremely helpful if used appropriately.

– **PRACTICE ASSIGNMENTS:** I have created a collection of practice problems for each section of the book we are going to cover. These problem sets mostly consist of the suggest homework problems that are posted on the course website. They will be available all semester long to help you prepare for quizzes and exams.

– **PERSONAL STUDY PLAN:** WebAssign contains practice quizzes and tutorials from each section of the book. Use these resources to brush up on prerequisite material that you may feel a little “rusty” on and/or prepare for in-class quizzes and exams. **Keep in mind that the practice quizzes may contain problems on topics that we do not cover in this course.**

– **VIDEO LECTURES:** Under the “Resources” heading of the “Home” page in WebAssign, there is a collection of videos for each section of the textbook. Use these videos to preview and reinforce the material discussed in class.

– **PRACTICE ANOTHER VERSION:** Most problems in WebAssign have a button labeled “Practice Another Version”. Clicking on this button gives you the opportunity to try a similar problem (which won’t be graded) before/after attempting your homework problem (which will be graded).

– **MASTER IT:** Some problems in WebAssign have a button labeled “Master It”. Clicking on this button gives you a step-by-step guide to answering a similar problem.