



# MTH 120: Beginning Algebra Learning Community

Instructor: Kristi Laird  
Office: JM 252  
Phone: 796-8503  
Email: lairdkristik@jccmi.edu

## Course Materials

Textbook: Lial, Hornsby, McGinnis, *Beginning Algebra*, 10<sup>th</sup> edition

Software: MyMathLab (packaged with new textbooks in JCC bookstore)

Calculator: Any basic scientific calculator is sufficient for this course. ***Please note that the calculator on your cell phone or laptop is will not be permitted.***

Other Materials: Three Ring Binder  
Tabbed Dividers  
Loose Leaf Paper (Three Hole Punched)  
Graph Paper  
Ruler or Other Straight-Edge

## Math 120 Course Objectives

Students completing Math 120 – Beginning Algebra should be able to:

1. Simplify basic algebraic, exponential, rational, and radical expressions using mathematical processes and symbol manipulation.
2. Use algebraic processes to solve linear, quadratic, rational, radical and literal equations and linear systems of equations.
3. Demonstrate understanding of concepts of linear equations by: graphing a linear equation, finding x- and y- intercepts, and finding the slope of a line.
4. Solve basic application problems using algebraic processes and procedural techniques.
5. Demonstrate a knowledge of current technology and its uses and/or scientific issues.

## Course Requirements

**Tests:** There will be three, closed book tests and a final exam. You may not use notes, but you may use a calculator. Tests will cover the material covered in class and on the homework. You should make every effort to be in class on test days. If you must miss a test, it is your responsibility to contact me ***before the test is given in class*** to make arrangements to take it at another time. If you do not contact me before the test, no make-up test will be allowed. Once I return a test to the class, no make-up tests will be given.

**Homework:** The only way to learn math is to do math. The graded portion of your homework in this class will be done online in a program called MyMathLab. There will be an online homework assignment corresponding to each section of the text that we will cover. You may attempt your MyMathLab homework an unlimited number of times before you submit it, as long as you submit it by its due date. That means that it is possible for you to receive full credit on each assignment as long as you are willing to put in the time and effort.

The amount of homework available in MyMathLab may not always be enough for you to master every topic, so I will also be providing you with a list of suggested problems from your text. The suggested homework from your text will not be collected or graded.

When doing your homework, I would suggest the following:

- ❶ Complete the homework in MyMathLab. If you find a problem you are struggling with, try one of the following:
  - Use one of the help features within MyMathLab. A few of those features are:
    - Ask My Instructor: This features emails me the exact problem you are working on, with any specific notes you want to make. I can email you back any help that I can provide.
    - Help Me Solve This: This features gives you step-by-step hints.
    - View An Example: This features walks you through a worked out example similar to the problem you are working on.
    - Textbook Pages: This features brings up the precise pages in your text that deal with the topic you are working on.
    - Video/Animation: For some problems/topics there are videos or animations to view.
  - Print out the problem and either bring it to class with you to ask during the Question and Answer period at the beginning of class, or bring it with you to my office during my scheduled office hours.
- ❷ For those topics or problems that you are still struggling with, find problems like those in the suggested homework for more practice.

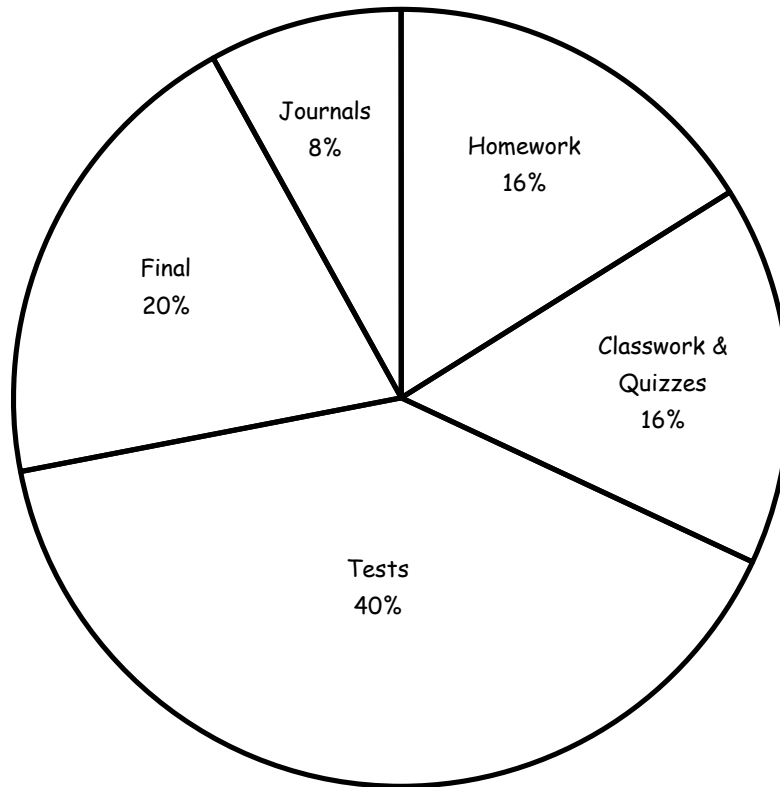
**Classwork/Quizzes:** These assignments will be completed in class. Sometimes you will be asked to work as a group, and sometimes you will work individually.

**Math Journal:** Periodically you will be asked to respond to journal prompt that are mathematical in nature. In these journal entries you will be asked to explain mathematical ideas in your own words.

**Late Work:** Classwork and quizzes may not be made up without a late work pass. Homework (MyMathLab) may be completed late for half credit. Math journals may be completed late for half credit, as long as they are turned in within one week of the original due date.

## Determination of Final Grades:

Your grade will be a weighted average of your work as shown.



## Math 120 Associate Degree Outcomes

All courses at Jackson Community College address one or more of the institutionally defined Associate Degree Outcomes (ADOs). Math 120 contributes to the following outcomes.

### ADO 3: Demonstrate computational skills and mathematical reasoning

- Demonstrates a basic knowledge of the structure of the real number system.
- Demonstrates computational skills using positive and negative numbers, fractions, and decimals, ratio and percents.
- Demonstrates an understanding of algebra (manipulating algebraic expressions, solving linear equations, applying the rules of exponents), geometry and measurement, data and descriptive statistics.
- Uses and understands basic mathematical terminology.
- Translates situations into mathematical symbols.
- Represents mathematical information symbolically, visually, numerically and/or verbally.
- Understands that connections exist between mathematics and real-world situations.

### ADO 7: Critical Thinking

- Incorporates new knowledge with old.
- Converts complex concepts into useful personal language.
- Solves new problems in new contexts.