

 Lagunita is retiring and will shut down at 12 noon Pacific Time on March 31, 2020. A few courses may be open for self-enrollment for a limited time. We will continue to offer courses on other online learning platforms; visit <http://online.stanford.edu>.

Course > Introduction > Learning Strategies > Developing Skills for Independent Learning

 Bookmark this page

Developing Skills for Independent Learning

About This Course

Many math and statistics courses are all about following the rules. You learn a set of steps for doing a specific type of problem, and then you repeat those same steps to answer new problems. The result is that you can answer questions correctly by following the steps without ever understanding *why* you are following them. **This course is not like that.**

In the words of one student:



In my old math classes, I used to just skim a chapter, copy the equations down, and use the equations to solve the problems. It saved me time, and I could still pass. But when I tried that in this class, I started failing because they set up the problems a different way. You really have to pay attention and think about them to get them right. It was harder, but I think I ended up learning a lot more.

This course is designed to help students learn why and when specific rules are appropriate, not just how to use those rules. In order to succeed in this course, you need to understand the concepts of statistics so you can decide for yourself about the right ways to solve problems. Mastering both the concepts and the methods means that this course is harder—but also more useful—than a typical math class.

In the next section, you will learn about what the student quoted above and other students did to succeed in this course and how you can succeed too.

Open Learning Initiative 



 Unless otherwise noted this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License .

