

Mathematics Academic Resource Center (MARC) Tutor Expectations

MATH offers about 20,000 student credit hours per semester, by far the most for any department in the college of Arts and Sciences. With this in mind, the Math Department employs various support structures such as small class sizes, inquiry based learning curriculum, Learning Assistants, and the MARC (to name a few) that ensure a robust, productive, and supportive experience for those enrolled in MATH courses.

The MARC not only provides tutoring, but an academics-based community where students feel comfortable studying, and creating relationships. The MARC's guiding principle is, "Learning is Dignity." This does not subtract from the dignity of other activities, rather it orients attention to providing a safe and respectful place to those in a rather uncomfortable situation: confused by a subject matter that in most cases is not their major field of study.

The following guidelines will help tutors of the MARC maintain an inclusive and fruitful mathematics community in the MARC:

1. Arrive on time, say "hi" to the the Warm Greeter ("Im so-and-so, grad student"), and sit at a desk in front of a blackboard.
2. Studying or reading your own material when waiting for someone to approach is ok. Look approachable (no headphones or snoozing).
3. Respect the student that is seeking help by listening to their question and activating knowledge that they have in order to solve their problem.
4. Respect for fellow tutors. The MARC is not a "math-off." Healthy math competition is respected and encouraged, but fundamentally, we want to honor one another. We seek help from, and we offer help to one other. To be "better at math" than someone else is to completely miss the MARC. We are here to create relationships using mathematics as the primary vehicle, not to assert dominance over one another with the powers of reason.
5. Timer ok ("resource center", not "tutor center"). You are a resource for students, not a crutch. Keeping interactions to around 5 minutes is ideal.
6. As a grad student, you are the champion of mathematics. You are the wise one that has experienced what undergrads are going through now. Manifest the joyful problem solver.
7. Tutors provide a service to the university community. Keep the spirit of service in you heart when helping others.