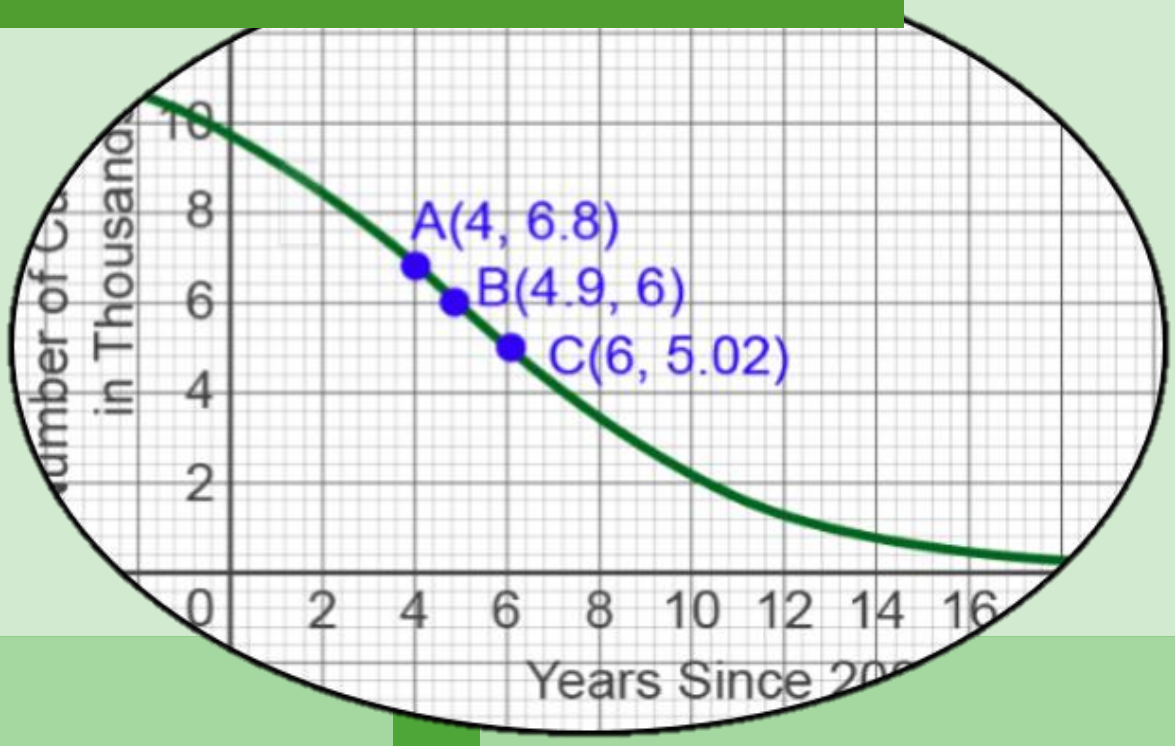
How to Succeed in *Applied Algebra*



Everything You Need

to Succeed in Applied Algebra

This document is full of advice and tips collected by Instructors after years of working with students just like you. Take these recommendations to heart to achieve your goal of passing Applied Algebra!

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Getting Started Right

Reaching Out for Help

- Schedule a check-in appointment with an Instructor. We are available through our individual e-mail addresses, which is preferred. If a particular Instructor is out of the office, contact the team at GEAlgebra@wgu.edu.
- Book time with any algebra-stats Instructor, using our team link: Book time with any Algebra-Stats Instructor.
- Instructors are also available *without* an appointment. Connect through Live Instructor Support. To learn more about Live Instructor Support, including a walkthrough of how to get started, watch this video.

Working through Units

General advice:

- As you begin each unit and module, take a moment to study the infographic that explains what is included. Think about how the new concepts relate to what you have already learned.
- For each lesson, read the Lesson Introduction and the Lesson Summary first. These overview and capture many key points.
- Notice the icons that cue you about particular elements in the lesson.

Take notes about, and regularly review, these things:

- Main ideas and concepts, often listed in the Lesson Summary
- Vocabulary/definitions
- Strategies, rules, and steps
- Examples

Remember that you can contact a course instructor anytime along the way! See “Reaching Out for Help.”

Using Learning Checks and “Engage Your Brain” Activities

These elements provide “right in the moment” practice of key concepts directly related to the final high-stakes assessment. Don’t skip them! Also, follow these tips when you participate in these activities:

- Work problems in your notebook, showing each step, and review your work regularly.
- Write a brief summary of your thought process for each question.
- Bring your work to your next meeting with your course instructor so you can discuss challenging problems with him or her.

Follow the instructions in the “Reaching Out for Help” section as needed.

Taking End-of-Module Quizzes

The quiz at the end of each module gives you an important opportunity to see how well you are mastering the concepts for that module. These quizzes also give you a chance to practice answering the kinds of questions you will see on the final high-stakes objective assessment.

Here are some great tips for using the end-of-module quizzes to your best advantage:

- Don't use notes. You won't be able to rely on your notes in the assessment, so practice that independence now.
- When solving mathematical equations, write out each step and keep your work to study later.
- Write a brief summary of your thought process for each question.
- Write notes about problems that challenged you – why did you struggle with them? This is good fodder for a discussion with your course instructor, so contact him or her to review your work on the challenging problems or questions.
- If you score below 75% on any end-of-module quiz, follow the instructions in the "Reaching Out for Help" section.

Completing the Pre-Assessment

Develop good practices as you prepare, in line with what you will encounter in the final high-stakes objective assessment. For example:

- Simulate the testing environment. Specifically:
  - Set up your webcam.
  - Find and maintain a quiet environment.
  - Do not use notes.
  - Use the whiteboard and a calculator to solve problems.
  - Complete the pre-assessment in one sitting or with breaks as outlined in the Take a Break Guidelines.
- Bookmark challenging problems to revisit, being mindful of the Take a Break Guidelines.
- Show all steps when solving mathematical equations.
- After completing the pre-assessment, follow the instructions in the "Reaching Out for Help" section to get a personalized study plan for the final high-stakes assessment.

Current Policies

Check out current requirements for calculators in Applied Algebra.




Before scheduling your objective exam, read the current requirements for whiteboard use during your assessment.

Live Events and Recorded Cohorts

Check out more learning options by clicking the “Explore Cohort Offerings” button in the Course of Study page. You can enroll in the Live Events for Applied Algebra and gain access to the Recorded Cohort videos. The videos and slides can also be found on the Live and Recorded Cohort page. Note these recommendations from the Instructors:

- While attending live events and watching videos, work through the examples along with the instructor and write notes on
  - Key ideas
  - Formulas
  - Steps to solving problems
  - Though process and reasoning
- Watch the videos before or after (but not instead of) reading the Modules in Acrobatiq
- During Live Events, participate in the exercises, chat with your fellow students, and ask questions as they arise
- If you have questions as you are watching the videos, please follow the instructions in the Reaching Out for Help section of this document