MATH 126 & Math 227

Please share these comments with your parents.

The main objective of these courses is to provide the high school students who have done very well in AP calculus with a worthwhile continuation of college mathematics.

The material in Math 126 (Calculus III) and Math 227 (Multivariable Calculus) is the same in content and depth as is taught at most universities. However, the pace and conduct of the classes will be slower than at a university, and the class size will be much smaller (Math 126 at the UW has 160 students per class section).

For the past six years I have worked with groups of Bellevue School District seniors (and a few juniors) who had done very well in AP calculus. Some of the features of our arrangements this year reflect things I think I learned from those experiences. They also reflect a few things I learned while watching my daughter go through the mathematics courses (including calculus as a junior) as a student for 12 years in the Bellevue School District.

We have the luxury of taking the whole year to cover the material contained in 2 courses (quarters) at BCC. You are already "ahead" of the typical good high school student in mathematics, and I see no strong reason to rush through this material. I want it to make sense and even be somewhat enjoyable. We will finish Math 126 in January and Math 227 about June 1. (Even good high school seniors are pretty worthless from the AP exams in mid May until graduation. Why fight it.)

I expect that you are all quite good at learning mathematics, but you are high school seniors, not the college sophomores I would typically see in these courses at BCC. This means that I will keep closer track of your progress throughout the course rather than the more collegiate "sink or swim" view.

Since most of you are taking 5 or 6 other courses plus being involved in other activities, I know that you are very busy so I will assign very little outside–of–class work. However, that means that I expect you at every class, on time, paying attention and doing the worksheets. I will assign and collect and grade in–class worksheets roughly every other class. For most of you this will be sufficient practice to master the material.

If you attend and pay attention at each class and do the worksheets and read the text and prepare for the quizzes and tests, then you should do fine (A or B) in these courses. Students who score low on a quiz or test may be assigned homework (to be turned in) to make sure they master the important material.
At most colleges and universities, almost all of the students in Calculus III and Multivariable Calculus classes plan to major in mathematics, engineering or a science. I expect that this class will also contain some English majors and history majors and ..., and I will try to make the course worthwhile for everyone.

**Transferability:** There is no short answer to the question of transferability. If you register for BCC credit (and pay the $95 "for BCC credit" fee), then these courses definitely transfer to all Washington state public colleges and universities (including the UW). However, private and out-of-state universities all have their own rules which they will apply to you and these courses. Former students have told me that Stanford, MIT and Harvey–Mudd, for example, accept the BCC credits, but that Cal Tech requires everyone to take mathematics placement tests. (The students who have gone to Cal Tech have done well enough on those placement tests to skip one or two additional courses there.)

Even at universities that do not give you transfer credit these courses should still provide you with an advantage when you cover the same material in classes at those schools. A former student e–mailed me and said that even his first week of Honors Multivariable Calculus would not have made any sense without these courses.

**Extra Help:** Unfortunately, my first class at BCC starts at 8:30 so I can't stay at Newport after this class, but I am available at BCC almost every afternoon from 2:30 - 4:30. It is best if you mention to me that you plan to stop by on a particular afternoon so I can tell you if I have a committee meeting or some other reason I won't be available.

**Fees:** $20 for the textbook (this is the amount the BCC Print Center charges the department) plus $95 for BCC credit so total = $20 for no BCC credit or total = $115 for BCC credit.

In either case, you will need to fill out a registration form which I will have early in the course.

**Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.**

**Dale Hoffman**

BCC Mathematics Department,

My BCC office is L–200 L, and the phone number there is (425) 564–2791 (8:30 AM - 4:30 PM)

My home phone is (425) 747–8515 (if you really need to reach me in the evening or on the weekend)

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