

WeBWorK Student Information

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1 WeBWorK Student Information

1.1 Introduction

WeBWorK is online mathematics and science assessment software. If you are being directed here it is because you are using it with one of your courses. This page provides some basic information for all students for WeBWorK.

Please note that this page may be revised as the semester continues so please consult it periodically.

1.2 Connecting to WeBWorK

Your instructor will provide one or more tool links to WeBWorK directly on the UR Courses page for your course. Your instructor will set things up in one of two ways:

- A **single link** in UR Courses to connect you to the WeBWorK platform. Once there you can click on individual assignments.
- Multiple **individual links** in UR Courses, one per assignment or exam, that you will click on to access each item.

Note that the only way you can log into the WeBWorK platform is through UR Courses. If you go directly to the WeBWorK server it will not let you log in. If your instructor is making individual links within UR Courses to your assignments or exams do not try to access

them in any other way than UR Courses since clicking on a link sets up mark entries in the UR Courses gradebook for the assignment or exam.

1.3 Sample Assignments

WeBWork comes with several sample homework assignments to help you learn how to use the system. Alternatively your instructors may have also created their own sample assignments or exams to learn the system. Clicking on these links will often set up connections between UR Courses and the WeBWorK system so it is important that you click on these even if ultimately you choose not to do the sample work.

1.4 Notation and Format

For documentation on how to write your answers in WeBWorK, consult:

- webwork.maa.org/wiki/Available_Functions

Use * for multiplication and / for division. (In many situations the multiplication symbol is not required.) Note exponentiation is written with ^ or ** like 2^5 or $2**5$ for 2^5 . Functions typically are written like `sqrt(x)` for the square root of x . Using special characters like $\sqrt{\quad}$ found on some keyboards to represent square root will not work. Vectors are denoted by angled brackets, for example, $\langle 5, -1, 2 \rangle$, or, with a parameter, $\langle 2t-1, 5t, 1-3t \rangle$. Points use the usual notation $(1, -1, 0)$, for instance.

Exact answers are preferred whenever possible, for example `sqrt(3)` for $\sqrt{3}$ or `(7/2)*pi` for $\frac{7\pi}{2}$. When numerical answers are provided, they should be correct to 5 significant digits.

Previewing your work (see below) allows you to ensure that you are writing something that WeBWorK recognizes and that you are not, for instance, missing parentheses that are required to make your mathematical expressions mean what you want.

1.5 Problem Attempts and Restrictions

Depending on how your instructor has configured the assignment or exam there will be various possibilities.

In the case of a homework assignment you may be allowed several attempts to succeed at a problem. Alternatively, if your instructor has assigned you a quiz or test with WeBWorK the behaviour is slightly different than a homework assignment. Multiple questions may appear on the same page (depending on how the exam has been configured). If there are multiple pages you can navigate between them at the top of the exam. For a quiz/exam format you will enter your answers and then at the end you must submit the exam for grading.

Also the homework or exam will have time constraints of when it is available and how long you have to write it. This information will be visible in WeBWorK but you should consult any instructions your instructor has given in UR Courses or by email as well. If you get errors when you try to access an assignment or exam directly from UR Courses it is possible it is not open yet within WeBWorK.

1.6 Completing an Assignment or Exam

In general proceed as follows:

1. Follow the link within UR Courses to WeBWorK. If the link goes to the entire WeBWorK course then choose your exam or homework when you get there. If the link in UR Courses goes directly to your exam or homework assignment then it will automatically open up for you to do it. In either case the exam/homework will be only open at a specified time. You will not be able to select it until it is open or it will generate an error indicating it is not open yet. When the exam/assignment does open it will likely start a new page (tab) in your web browser. (You may need to configure your browser to accept such new pop-up tabs.)
2. Work through each problem like you would in a usual homework or exam situation on pencil and paper. Often WebWork may be only looking for the final answer of a problem that may have many steps. Just because you cannot show your work in the system does not mean there is not real work to be done.
3. Enter your answer for each problem.
4. After entering an answer select the **Preview Answers** button to see exactly what WebWork thinks your answers are, especially for anything numeric or symbolic. Note this does not check your homework assignment or submit your exam! Remember that WeBWorK recognizes symbols and functions so you can give exact answers. If you do work out an answer in decimal write many digits of significance.
5. When you have completed your work if it is a homework assignment you can select **Check Answers** for the problem. If the instructor has set things up to allow you multiple attempts you can try fixing any answers that are incorrect. Alternatively if you are writing a quiz or exam you must select **Grade Test** at the bottom of the exam when you have completed your entire exam.

Note: WeBWorK will store your answers as you complete the work, especially if you hit the **preview answers** button. In this way if you lose your connection you should be able to reconnect and not lost any of your input.

Also note that if you are being given an exam the exam is only submitted once you have finally hit the **Grade Test** button. After that changes cannot be made to the exam. If you do not hit the Grade Test button before your exam time expires you will receive

no marks on the exam. You will be given warnings to enter Grade Test as you are running out of time. Finally it may be that your instructor will want you to submit written work for your exam to UR Courses. You must follow the instructions given to you by your instructor.

6. After the homework or exam is closed and after a period of time (specified by the instructor) has passed, you can likely reconnect again to the assignment or exam to see the correct answers. (On a quiz/exam you will have to select a button at the bottom of the page to show correct answers.)

1.7 Additional Documentation

Additional documentation can be found at

- webwork.maa.org/wiki/Student_Information

Some of this documentation may not apply to you as WeBWorK is directly integrated into the UR Courses system.