

Brief Introduction to WebAssign (WA) and Related Matters

(updated Spring 2014)

1. Most of you already have WebAssign accounts and you can login at the site:

<http://www.webassign.net/login.html>

using your username, institution code (purdue) and password.

New users should have already received their login information from WebAssign. If you haven't received this information, please e-mail me (arshak@math.purdue.edu) immediately.



The website <http://www.webassign.net/login.html> is for INSTRUCTORS' USE (lecturers and TAs) ONLY. You SHOULD NOT use your Purdue Career Account to login.



STUDENTS should go to:

<http://www.webassign.net/purdue/login.html>

and use their Purdue Career Account information to login.

At the beginning of the semester, a LARGE number of students will send e-mails claiming not able to login. It is almost certainly due to the fact that they go to the wrong website.

2. You will have access to your WA section pages under your lecture(s). You will also be able to view and try the homework assignments, send messages to your class, and view students' records. For calculus classes, the pages are mainly managed by the sections' TAs.



Note the following:

- i. All the homeworks, quizzes, tests, etc have been pre-set to some default setting. PLEASE DO NOT CREATE ANY NEW ASSIGNMENTS, CHANGE OR EDIT ANY SETTINGS.
- ii. You can however, change the pre-set due dates of the homeworks, quizzes, etc for your section. This will allow certain flexibility in your teaching schedule. For calculus courses, this can(will) be largely handled by the TAs.
- iii. The dropping of certain number of homeworks, quizzes will also be taken care of by WA. (I will set this slightly later into the semester.)

3. Students are on two rosters: the Purdue Banner roster and a WA roster. Student who has already enrolled through Banner will automatically appear in WA section roster (AFTER they login once).

If he/she transfers sections, his/her WA account will be transferred as well. But the homework record need to be transferred manually. Please refer to the attached guide about sending e-mail to calcdesk@math.purdue.edu concerning student transfers.

4. On the first day of class, mention the following web-sites to your students (in addition to your own course website, if available):

(a) Departmental Course Webpage:

<http://www.math.purdue.edu/academic/courses>

(b) WebAssign Student Login:

<http://www.webassign.net/purdue/login.html>

(c) WebAssign Basic Help:

<http://intranet.math.purdue.edu/webassign>

From (a), tell your class to download and read the Assignment Sheet and Ground Rules. As mentioned before, (b) is the link for STUDENTS to log into WA. They need to use their Purdue University Career Account username and password. Note again that this is a different page from what the lecturers and TAs use (see 1. above). Link (c) helps the students get started in using WA for their homework.

5. Students have a two week grace period before they have to enter a WA access code or buy access online. (They will be prompted to do so after they login.)

For calculus (161, 162, 166, 261) the *Purdue Edition* of the text is a subset of the mass market text:

Stewart, Calculus Early Transcendentals, 7th edition.

Students can get the Purdue edition bundled with a WA access code at the Purdue University Bookstore or Follett. This is probably the best deal for students as they can get both the book and the WA access code which is automatically valid for multiple semesters use. (Three semesters – Calculus I, II and III – are essentially the whole calculus career for most science and engineering students in Purdue.) On the other hand, students can also buy the mass market version of the text anywhere else (Amazon, eBay, etc) and then purchase the WA access code online separately for one or multiple semesters. The choice is completely up to the students. Note that the access code for Stewart Calculus 7th edition automatically comes with an eBook.

For 262 and 265, students can either purchase the Purdue bundle (which comes with WA access code – one semester access only) at the Purdue University Bookstore or Follett or they can buy the book and online access code separately. There is no eBook option for 262 and 265.

6. From past experience, once logged in, students will not need much help in using the system – but please also refer students to the WebAssign Basic Help (see 4(c) above).

Most homework questions are fill-in-the-blank using a math editor. They essentially get infinitely many (100) attempts for these. A small portion of the questions are multiple choice, which allow only a certain number of attempts. (The number depends on the number of choices – this can be viewed in advance by students. True/False questions, of course, allow only one chance.) After the homework due date has passed, students can see the answers and for most calculus questions, the worked out solution also. Most of the problems are programmed with random constants.

Some important tips you should point out to students are:

- (a) whenever possible, always enter EXACT EXPRESSION, NOT APPROXIMATION (using CALCULATOR) (unless told otherwise by the question).

- (b) for numerical answers, as a rule of thumb, always enter at least four decimal or four significant digits.
 - (c) Capital and small letter variables are DIFFERENT: Π (Pi), π (pi), Φ (Phi), ϕ (phi), Θ (Theta), θ (theta), etc.
 - (d) questions which prompt for the open or close brackets “(”, “)”, “[”, “]” are treated as True/False questions and hence allow only one chance.
7. During the first week of class, students will add or transfer exclusively through Banner. Please refer to the attached guide for sending e-mail to calcdesk@math.purdue.edu about student transfers.

For weeks 2–4 instructors can sign add/transfer forms. At that time instructors should ask Ben Wiles’ advice for appropriate upper limits for sections.

Non-enrolled students would also have the opportunity to do course work if there is a recitation with free seats. If the TA agrees, such students can take quizzes and ask to be added to the section WA roster. Such students should be told that the total course enrollment is limited and it is quite possible that they will not be admitted this semester.

See also the more detailed attached guide for sending e-mail to calcdesk@math.purdue.edu about adding this type of students.