

Letter to future Student

My name is Lisa Vasoya, I am majoring in engineering and going to transfer to UW Seattle for bioengineering. I am currently a sophomore at Highline College. I started here in 2021 as a running start student. I graduated in 2021 from Kentridge High School. I love to learn new things and love to experience and explore the world around me hence I chose to be an engineer as I was always interested in science, I thought why not be a bioengineer? I agree that Engineering takes a lot of math, physics, and science which also led me to struggle more in classes, but after one or two quarters I got used to it and learned about time management. In the beginning, I used to procrastinate a lot but then I started getting back in class and my grade came down. From that moment I started realizing that studying at least 3/4 hrs. on one subject daily is needed if you are taking all STEM classes. This quarter the challenges I faced were not more it was just about not getting some topics at a moment but when I started making more efforts and started practicing on it and gave some more time on it, it got a lot better eventually but in getting better my classmates played a great role because whenever we used to get time out of class we used to study together and used to explain each other the topics which were confusing or troublesome. The personal struggles I had for this quarter were working in the morning and having to also attend this class in the morning, so I had to manage my work schedule the whole quarter. Dusty's class is very straight forward it's like you have been given a plate full of food now it's up to you from where and how you want to start eating. Basically, you will have all the materials in his class handed out to you. The piece of advice I would like to give especially if you are in Dusty's class is to ask more questions, watch videos and always ask him at moment you feel as if you are lost somewhere, most importantly use all the resources available to you especially study groups, because I personally think that working with people makes a lot of sense if you are stuck somewhere or if you are struggling with some topics. I personally liked Dusty's class and moreover, I loved how he gives the pamphlets about the upcoming topic and the videos on YouTube with the time noted for each example so you

don't have to scroll through the whole video you can directly jump on the example you are looking for.
Other than that, I think if you study and put yourself as a priority every day you will be ready to ace this class. Best of luck to all future students.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Vasoya

Dear linear algebra student,

My name is Ledvin Hernandez, as of this writing, December 2022, I am almost finishing my first quarter as a sophomore, my goal is to earn my associate degree in electrical engineering and transfer to the University of Tacoma in the fall of 2023 and begin my path to earning my electrical engineering degree. During this process, there have been many difficult moments throughout my life, like most people but somehow, I have always come out ahead...

To give you an idea, I am an adult, since I was a child, my childhood was based on work, and work, I always struggled to study because of this, I ended up having to drop out of some studies, to be able to support my family economically, in my country of Latino origin, and even at the same time, it is still being done today, I work 40 hours a week, and in order to pay the bills, support my family financially, and at the same time excel academically and since not everything is perfect, there are always problems that need to be solved along the way.

This quarter has probably been one of the most challenging I've ever had, I'm taking 4 STEM classes, and I work full time as I mentioned before, but to be honest, it's killing me physically and mentally, but I have no other choice right now. I hope one day to find an answer to many questions that come to my mind, with all this load. Luckily, I think I will pass all the classes, and if you ask me what the key was to achieve it, I would tell you to never give up, and try to balance the classes a bit if you ever find yourself in a similar situation and give priority to the more difficult classes. related to your career or those that you think are most important. Communication is very important, talk to your teacher about your performance in class and let him or her know your situation, maybe he or she

understands your situation and can help you improve or balance your classes when necessary.

My advice for succeeding in a class taught by Mr. Wilson; I call him Mr. Wilson out of respect for older people with higher knowledge than mine, but many of my colleagues call him Dusty; In the end, but in the end, it depends on each person choice.

In my opinion, he is a person who cares that you learn, and with immense charisma when it comes to giving his class, there is not a day that he does not have a smile on his face, I don't know how he does it, but he always comes with good vibes to the class and that is transmitted to the students.

With that said, I think the best advice for success in Mr. Wilson's class is not to procrastinate, since he publishes videos of each section taught in his class, in case you did not understand something or if you missed a specific point of the class, he gives you all the tools and teaches you how to use them to be successful in his class, the key is not to procrastinate.

Remember, don't give up, everything good in this life is hard to achieve.

Hello future student of Dusty's, my name is Bonds Le, and currently in my time of writing, I am going for an AA, but ultimately, aiming to major in Civil Engineering. I am a Vietnamese American, living with both my parents and one annoying little brat sister. I am a senior in Foster High School, attending multiple sports like boys swimming and soon to be in the track team (hopefully). I do like to play games in my free time, some which include Assassin's Creed, Fortnite (we like Fortnite), and Valorant (but I shouldn't). To touch on more of my personal life background, I've always lived in a strict household, and a family that emphasizes heavily on math. I've been learning grades way ahead of myself, pushing me to further my knowledge even more. So by reading this, you can tell I'm a big math nerd.

My main challenge with this class is that it was everyday for me and my studying habits. Before classes like Dusty's, I had taken math classes in which it only required me to go in 2 days a week to study and learn. That basically was the pattern for my first year at Highline. However, once I saw Dusty's classroom was the only one available to me, and I saw it everyday, I knew I would have a tough time adapting. Everyday sounds exhausting, but in the end, you really do get used to it. It's like going back to regular school everyday before Covid, but now, we're back but going to school in College everyday. Another challenge that I mentioned was my studying habits. It's been really bad, and I don't know how I'm not doing worse. On days of the assessments, I would be studying an hour or two right before. That's the only studying I did for each assessment ever. And somehow, I've managed to keep up maintaining an 80-100% average for each assessment. I guess I'm just built different, but recommending this to other students, I suggest you don't do this. Ultimately, this will become a bad habit, and we really should be studying more than we need to. You will have lots of resources like your classmates, Dusty himself, and online too like webassign HW. Sometimes if I don't understand something, I suggest just searching up a youtube video that works through a similar problem so you see the step by step process. But really, studying throughout the whole course should be the proper way to study.

If you are wondering how the class would be like with Dusty, it's actually pretty chill and "fun" to be in. You don't just go in, sit, listen, and leave. He involves his students, makes the teaching more engaging, and you can tell overtime that he is really passionate about what he does. Not only that, he really makes a community within his classroom thanks to his discussion seminars, introducing me to new people and new friends. To be successful, I would say just try to reach out more. You really have lots of resources around you like I said earlier, so try to take advantage of that. There are people to help you when needed, or even ask Dusty himself. If not, try what I said earlier by looking into online resources to help you understand a subject better, you really have a whole database out there for your needs as well.

We are now near the end of this letter, so I would leave something encouraging here. Just know that if anytime you feel unsure about this class, know you have people to help you. Know that this class won't be just your typical boring math class, but like a new community. You won't feel

alone, because other people will be in the same position as you too. Know that everybody starts somewhere, and you are at the beginning of your journey. And from me to whoever is reading this, YOU GOT THIS! SHEEEEEESH.

>:)

Hello, my name is Andrew Rios, and I am majoring in computer science, kind of. Currently I am a running start student and senior in high school. My plan after high school is to go into university and study computer science. Though, here at Highline I am not getting any degree. You may be wondering why, but that is a story for another letter. While being a running start student I also work part time at a pool as a headguard and am an older brother to my two siblings. This quarter has been a lot about managing school, family, and work. In this letter I will be writing about how I managed these things to the best of my ability.

This quarter was not as bad as I thought it would be, though my grades are not at the standard I put myself to. The number one contributor to this were small mistakes made during tests. Such as signs, decimals, and written answers. Sometimes I got caught up in homework, I did not leave myself time to study for my other classes. Making it through was difficult, but if I could go through this quarter again, the one thing I would make sure to do is manage my time better. Not everyone manages their time the same, some students work, some students have children, some students don't have homes. If you are in school, I believe your number one priority should be school, unless you have kids, or other family to take care of. But if you are working, like I am, talk with your higher ups, let them know you are struggling, and hopefully they will understand, maybe give you some PTO, or at least give you time to study during work. Throughout this quarter, I made it clear to my managers school and family were my priorities, I studied every chance I got during work, and worked every chance I was available.

Now, everyone is not the same when it comes to multitasking, my advice to you is to take classes with teachers like Dusty. You can visit online resources and find previous student opinions on professors you might have when you are registering for courses at Highline. Dusty is caring and understanding. He makes class enjoyable and shows his care for other students. Although he taught Calc 3 in a fast pace this quarter, he made sure no one was left behind. To be most successful in a class taught by Dusty, I highly encourage you to participate. Any participation is greatly appreciated by Dusty, message him with any questions you have, answer questions in class even when you think you are wrong, Dusty is always there to help, and he makes it clear as day that his priority in that classroom is to help you gain knowledge. So, use this information to your advantage, ask questions, make educated guesses, work with other students, and most importantly, show Dusty you strive for knowledge.

To whom this letter may concern, always remember you got this. Never give up and remember there is no success without failure. Jesus loves you.

11:05 PM, 12/8/22

Hello there, future student!

I'm Tan Dylan Nguyen, an Electrical Engineering major. I'm a Vietnamese American, and a member of AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) Club and Book Club. I've got a lot of dreams, and among those dreams is to make money, become an engineer, and graduate with a bachelor's degree. They're in no particular order, but I'll most likely start with graduating school first.

At the time of writing this, I'm taking Dusty's Calc 3 class. It's not terribly bad, but I'm also taking Physics 201 and Differential Equations at the same time. Don't do what I'm doing. A 5-credit class on average requires 15 hours of studying, 5 hours per credit. If you do the math, 15 credits worth of class is 45 hours of studying. A week is about 168 hours, meaning you spend roughly a fourth of your week studying. Pile on other things like 8 hours of sleep a day (56 hours a week), going to class (~8 to 15 hours a week), other responsibilities and activities (~8 to 30+ hours a week), you start to realize you barely have enough time to yourself.

The point of that whole paragraph was to illustrate how much of a bad idea taking 3 difficult courses at once is. I handled it in two ways: focused studying and breaktime allocation. The former is studying up on things that have importance in the course. Understanding concepts, application, and how to show that you can apply those ideas. What that looks like in practice is looking at previous problems, writing out your process, and during assignments and exams, reading the question. Seriously, read the question.

The latter is effectively scheduling. If you study for some amount of time, you take a break. For example, an effective method is the Pomodoro Technique. 20 minutes of studying, 5-minute break. It breaks up a continuous studying process into bite-sized chunks. Another distribution is 60-20, so 60 minutes of study, 20 minutes of break. I prefer 60 and 20 minutes, but it's all dependent on you.

All in all, don't stress the class. Dusty's an accommodating professor, and his class is well structured. If you have an issue with the class or a concern, talk to him about it. Approach him after class or in his office hours. If you don't have either of those, then you could chat with him about other stuff. Math or otherwise. Just don't ask about the weather.

Regards,
Tan Nguyen

Dear Future Students

Hi my name is Dylan Le, I am a computer science major hoping to work in the software engineering industry in the future. I am a 2nd year College Student at Highline College looking to transfer to a university after the year of 2023. I have always had interest in the field of CS but I do find myself struggling when it comes to math I came out of Calc 1 and 2 one being online and one being in person going alright but I feel like I really stumped upon a obstacle in calc 3 being very difficult I do think that calculus 3 is hard but there are a lot of resources offered in helping you through it.

There were many challenges that I have faced this quarter. One of the challenges I have faced this quarter was being able to apply what I learned without looking at the material I feel like I am able to do a lot of the work with a guideline or an example on the side that I can reference too but at times like during test I would get a bit lost and not know what methods to apply to complete the problem or sometimes I would know how to finish the question but not know how to start it. One of the solutions that I have found was to go to the study sessions that were offered. I definitely think that being able to work with others is very useful and I feel like it just makes your learning even more sophisticated because class time can only cover so much because we are limited in time. Another plus in the study sessions is that you're physically working on boards from when I went and it helps being able to work together all on a single board.

One advice I would give is going to the study sessions and utilizing the office hours I wasn't able to attend them all but when I did I saw a significant difference in my understanding and if your willing to communicate and reach out you are able to get help and support 100 percent of the time and utilizing slack is a good application for talking to Dusty and your peers.

At times it may seem that things get difficult but I would say that if you keep going with it and taking in the opportunities to practice more you should be fine. It's not about getting the highest grade you want but something that you are proud of. I know that transferring you would want the highest GPA possible but calculus 3 has many obstacles and was really difficult in my opinion but your classmates and Dusty are there to support you so I wish all of the new students the best of luck and to have a great quarter.

Hello future students,

My name is Angel-Pacheco-Brown, and I was one of Dusty's Calculus 163 students. I am currently majoring in Computer Science and had to take Calculus 163 as one of my prerequisites towards my degree. A little about me is that I have 4 dogs, they are all small breeds, and that just recently, one of my female dogs gave birth to 6 puppies. I like to play video games in my free time and hang out with my friends whenever I can to have some good laughs and take my mind off of things. Also, I am a little mix of a few races, I am half Mexican, a quarter Japanese, and a quarter Native American. I am currently in my 2nd year at Highline College and am planning on hopefully graduating this spring with my A.S and plan on either attending Bellevue college or UW Tacoma.

Now, let's move on to what Dusty is like as a professor. Dusty is a very friendly professor that wants his students to be successful and doesn't mind going out of his way to help you learn. Some challenges I faced this quarter was finding an advisor. During the whole time at Highline, I have not had an advisor assigned to me yet. Dusty reached out to me and asked if he could be of any assistance in helping me choose out my next courses for this winter quarter. It helped me out quite a bit. I had somewhat of an idea on what to take in the winter, but I wasn't entirely sure. After meeting with Dusty, I knew what classes I needed to take next to be on track to graduate. During this fall quarter, I was struggling a bit and Dusty was realizing that not only was I struggling, but so were many other students as well. So, he came up with the idea to have students host study groups for extra assistance and extra credit if you attend. These were some of the challenges I faced over the quarter.

Some advice I can give to anybody taking one of Dusty's classes is to always watch the videos he posts on his website. They are very helpful for when you miss class or didn't understand what happened during the lecture. They are usually an hour or 2 long, but it is worth it. I would also highly recommend going to Dusty's office hours as he ensures you understand the concepts thoroughly and explains the concepts that you aren't quite sure about in a different way than in lectures. Sometimes, Dusty's lectures are fast paced, so going to office hours or watching the videos are great if you aren't able to follow along with what's going on. One last piece of advice is in Cengage (I assume will be the homework platform, hopefully), do not be afraid if your answer is wrong. Most of the time, Cengage allows 2 to 3 attempts of an incorrect answer before displaying "Watch Video" or "Practice Another" which can give you some insight on where your calculations are going wrong. This does not apply to every single problem on there though, so be careful.

Lastly, math can be difficult at times. Going through High School, I thought math was one of the easiest subjects up until Calculus 1. It only got harder from there and I no longer enjoyed math the same way I did before. There are so many more steps and complicated math, etc. So, my words of encouragement are: If you are struggling to grasp the concepts in class, ask for help. You can post your questions in Slack; You can message Dusty through here and set up times to meet and go over problems. Posting questions in Slack means that everyone can see it. If you are lost or confused, look in slack first, there might already be a solution for the problems you are stuck on. If not, then that is when you take the extra step and get assistance from either

your classmates or Dusty himself. Don't give up, there are always people willing to help you out, you just have to ask.

Samiullah Jalal

MY name is Samiullah Jalal. I was majoring in bioengineering but last year I changed my major to mechanical engineering. When I first move to America I was living in Houston Texas and I got my high school diploma in Houston TX. Then I move to Washington state with my family, it has been two years that I am living in Washington state. This is my second year studying in highline college and I am planning to transfer to UW Tacoma next year on summer and get my bachelor degree there.

The challenge that I faced this quarter was not finishing my homework on time and not having good grades in assessment. I was Doing the home works on same day as its due date, sometimes I would finish my home works on time but sometimes I was not able to finish it on time and have low score on the home work. Later I started to do my homework one day before its due date and by doing homework on day before its due date will gives as extra credit too. When I could not solve questions in the home work that were hard or I would be stuck on for too long I ask in slack to get help from students or Dusty to solve the problem, that way I had extra time to finish the homework before its due date and the understand that chapter better. For assessments, in the first I was just studying my notes for assessments but that did not help me a lot to get a good grade on assessments. Later in quarter there were study groups which Dusty designed for the students to study together. I would go to the study group, review my notes, and review homework question of that chapter two days before the tests. By going to study group and reviewing my notes and reviewing homework question help me a lot to get a good score on the assessment.

My advice for being to be successful in the quarter or in calculus class was to ask Dusty for help. Dusty will help you as much as he can and will try to find helpful ways to solve your problems that you have. If you are stuck on the home work question, cannot get a good grade in the assessments or not doing well on the class. My advice would be to reflect on the strategies you have taken in for doing your homework or preparing for assessments. This will make you to realize that what you have did wrong and what you did correct.

Do not give up on what you are doing in your life, and the goals you have. Be motivated about your goals, be consistent and practice every day, what you want and need to do to achieve your goals. Consistency is important because you can attain good habits and be disciplined in your life, which can lead you close to achieving your goals.

Letter to a student

Dear future student of Dusty's class,

I'm majoring in electrical engineering, as a fully grown adult. I have two beautiful kids, an amazing wife, a home, and lots of things I hold personally important. I for example, wish to be the "dad I never had", a husband for my wife deserving of her, and to be the best son and example for others I can be. This I found particularly difficult in Dusty's class, since the setup refused to let me learn anything- I felt rushed, as though I would be tossed laundry, washed, dried, hung in a matter of minutes. I do not condemn Dusty's methods, his class. I will instead make suggestions to at least survive in his class.

To pass, one must work with Dusty a lot. Class structures like this require diligent effort combined with sacrifice. I found the second part particularly rough since I am not trying to be the dad I never had tomorrow, but today AND tomorrow, as with my other goals! Thus, Dusty's class I found difficult. As the reader, I understand not everyone has children, and many readers may come from a running start background- a High Schooler, or some age close to it. Thus, the secret shall be revealed.

To pass and graduate, you must not only treat classes like Dusty's like a career, you must treat it as your life; Your children, wife, and career are all college. I may write a separate epistle regarding the degenerative nature that is American college; For now, I simply wish to focus on this "secret" I mentioned. The secret is simply to work with others, develop a camaraderie with fellow classmates and students on campus, which is in part what Dusty inspires anyway. Finally, "working smarter, not harder" is imperative- for goodness sakes, stop thinking your hw assignment must be done by yourself only! If this is you, even if you DO pass, you won't be ready for life, which ultimately is the greatest failure of college. Create study groups, know your peers, develop true relationships, that's how you endure the brutal hellscape that is College, and Dusty's class.

Dear Dusty's future students

Hello everyone my name is Rinkal Faldu. I am majoring in computer science. I want to computer science with minor data science. I am from India I came here in 2019. I started my journey as ESL student in Highline college, after that I started taking class for associate in computer science. This my final year in highline college and planning to transfer in university of Washington Seattle.

In this quarter I faced some challenges as a student and as individual. As a student it is hard to manage time for study and for tutoring job. One of the difficult things is too hard to manage time for each and every task. This quarter I am taking two class physics and math. When I was trying to focus on one class I lost in other class. I was not able to balance both of them at same time. starting of quarter, I was feeling that physics will be hard for me then in this quarter I focused on physics, by doing that I was not able to do good on math. In the middle of quarter, I change preference of this class and I started working on both classes equally, and I tried to balance score of both classes. So balancing work of these two classes it was really challenging for me in this quarter. Because of hard time in time allocation, I was not able to take the advantage of office hours and group study.

I have some advice for future student of Dusty. Please watch videos posted by Dusty in his you tube channel as you learn new section in class, this bast way to successful in weekly assessment. Make schedule for assignment and for extra practice of math problem. Always start working on assignment earlier rathe than working on last minute rush, by doing that you will be able to get definite of extra credit given by Dusty. Whenever you have stuck anywhere, not able to do assignment just ask for help to Dusty or other classmates. Dust create platform to communicate with him or with other classmates in, so use that platform to get help from dust or from other classmates, and this the platform where you will get response really quick any time. Give your best in each any every task like assignment, assessment and exams, never give up. If you are student of Dusty try to understand concept of math problems rather then solving 100's of math problems for practice to successful in his class. Please present in class to take the advantages of face-to-face learning, and attendance plays important tole in you grading.

Finally, I would like to encourage to everyone for study. Whenever you feel demotivated or hopeless, please talk to someone you comfortable with and ask for help and get your motivation for study. Please communicate with other and talk about your problems. Give your best to each and every task to successful in every class.

Letter to Future Student

Hello future students of Professor Dusty Wilson, my name is Manjot Singh and I took Calculus 3 in the fall of 2022. I am a running start student that plans on majoring in civil engineering and hope to get into the University of Washington. A little bit about myself is that I am an overachiever at school and expect all A's. I also try my best to balance time with school, family, and sports.

The biggest challenge I faced this quarter was the tough schedule that I encountered. My classes this quarter include Calculus 3, Engineering 214 (Statics), and Physics (201). These were 3 tough classes that required a lot of time and conceptual understanding compared to other easier classes. This was easier to balance early on in the year when I had no afternoon activities, but when my basketball season started at my high school I truly struggled with having enough time to study for all 3 classes. Due to this my grades started to see a dip which was really concerning for me considering what I wanted to achieve. So I had to adjust and prioritize what assignments were most important. Thankfully due to Dusty's late policy and his class setup I understood that taking the time to understand the topics was more important than trying to work and finish every problem of every homework assignment. My only regret was that I wish I knew this earlier so I could've done this from the beginning and done better on some of the assessments earlier on.

My advice for future Dusty students would be to use all the resources that Dusty provides. He goes above and beyond to provide videos, notes/study packets, study groups, slack discussions, and office hours. Using these appropriately results in the best chance at the highest grade possible. In addition to this, don't take Dusty's positivity for granted, not all professors are like this so enjoy the time you have in class with him. Assessments are extremely important. Just because they are every week doesn't mean they don't affect your grade as much, they are 50% of the grade which is extremely high so make sure you prioritize studying for those as they quickly add up.

My last advice would be something that Kobe Bryant once said, "failing to prepare is preparing to fail." Therefore, as long as you put in the work and do your best in preparing for each assessment you will be happy with the results you receive after. Always remember that you can achieve anything you set your mind to and you have people and the resources around you to make the accomplishments.

Hello future linear algebra students! My name is Evie Sampayan and I am currently pursuing my Associate of Science in Civil and Mechanical Engineering here at Highline. I did my first 2 years of college as a running start student here at Highline and I am hoping to transfer to a 4-year university next fall.

All of my classes last Spring quarter were still online so this is like my first in person school quarter again after 2 years of doing remote learning. This is one of the challenges I faced this quarter. I would say I had a bit of hard time adjusting to doing in person classes as I had to switch around my work and school schedules. I had to find a way to somehow make it work so that my classes don't overlap with my work schedule. With online classes I never had to worry about my schedule as I studied on my own time which gave me flexibility with work. I am still learning how to manage my work time and school as most of my classes also require me to study outside of school/class time. Because of this, I had a hard time catching up with my classes and there were more homework assignments than I expected which made it more difficult for me to manage my time correctly.

I took calculus 3 with Dusty this fall quarter and so far he is my favorite math teacher since I started studying at Highline. One thing I recommend doing is to reach out to your professors when struggling with the materials or when you don't get something on the homework. Dusty will try to help you as much as he can and will even encourage you to join study groups and trust me study groups are actually really helpful. If study groups are not your thing, maybe try to partner up with someone from your class so that you can help each other when questions about the class arise. Do not feel stupid for not understanding something about the materials taught as it happens to everyone. You might just need to go over the lecture few more times or get it explained in another way to be able to understand it fully. Another way to help understand to class better is to watch videos on youtube or other sources. Youtube has a lot of videos explaining the materials taught in class.

To end this letter on a good note, PLEASE be kind to yourself. Talk to your professors especially Dusty as he will never hesitate to try and help you succeed your class. Take time for yourself and remember that after all the struggles with school, something down the line, something bigger is waiting for you.

Have a great quarter!
Evie

Dear Dusty's Students,

Hi everyone, my name is Wubetu Amsalu. I was born and raised in Ethiopia Africa. I have Bachelor of science in Chemistry that I had in back home. I have been in the US 5 years and currently. When I came to the US my first destination was San Jose CA and after 6 month I moved to Seattle. Now here at highline I am a second-year student and I plan to on majoring computer science and transfer to a 4-year university to get my degree in computer science.

Many challenges were faced on me in this quarter. One of the terrible challenges faced was I got common cold 4 times and each round stayed more than a week and it is very difficult to do my homework properly and also difficult to ready for each week assessments. The second challenge I don't know the reason may be due to my bad health status or others I got bad stress and may motivation be very low. The third challenge was; since I live in the US alone, life is not easy for me, I pay whatever any bill by my self even if for school therefore to cover those things I am working 40 hour/week. Therefore, I didn't have enough time to study, to do my homework and for group study. But thanks to my instructor Dusty I got many constructive advice and he communicate and treat as a family, as much as possible I overcame the challenge specially; I minimize the stress by doing physical exercise and by lowering my working hour to 32 hour/week.

My first advice for future students, you should attend in class, I know Dusty have a video on each section with interesting explanation but the class needs to focus on understanding on concept so Dusty use interesting instructional media with a very nice teaching methodology (teaching method) to understand the concept very well, therefore class attending in dusty makes everything easy.

My second advice is plan what you doing each day. For example, you should do your homework as much as possible two days before the due date because Dusty give assessment each week, so you have time to study your material as well as revise the home work. Second example, you should print the note and watch the video before you come the class because it makes easy to understand. And also, you should plane to study your material after each class.

My crucial advice to be successful in Dusty's class is communicate or talk to Dusty class when you get any challenge. Dusty is not only a mathematician but also he is a psychologist or you can call any that a person that treat you and helps to overcome any challenge faced on you. I didn't see any instructor in Highline college like Dusty that treat students as a family. Therefore, don't afraid to talk to Dusty just consider as your family.

Lastly, I just want to say no matter any challenge faced on your life, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel.

"Being challenged in life is inevitable, being defeated is optional." Roger Crawford.

Dear future student,

My name is Gloria, and I am currently a second year Running Start student on track to graduate in 2023 with my general AA. Originally, I had no idea that I would even take calculus III because I used to major in biology, and then I switched to chemical engineering this summer, and to a path in user-experience design recently. A large factor in this was that I enjoyed calculus II more than chemistry, which honestly came as a surprise to me. I hope that you are also able to find joy in math, and I might even assume that you already do if you are taking linear algebra ☺.

The beginning of this quarter was certainly a rough time for me as I dealt with taking three STEM courses at the same time (organic chemistry, calculus, and physics) while juggling high school extracurriculars and college applications. For calculus specifically, I didn't employ effective study habits and often just hoped for the best before the weekly assessments. As expected from my efforts, I did not receive high marks and my grade slowly dropped. I knew I had to do something about this, so I really focused on solving the homework and lecture problems while understanding why I was doing these steps. As a result, I was able to improve my assessment scores and feel better about the class in general.

I don't think I could have made it through this quarter without asking for help. Whether it was from Dusty or one of my classmates, listening to my brain and not trying to be completely independent saved me from a lot of confusion on concepts. Even if your struggles are not math related, I would suggest talking to people you trust about your feelings because you are able to get it off your chest and have a secondary opinion that isn't clouded by emotion.

Personally, I think anyone can be successful in a class taught by Dusty. No matter how horrible at math someone is, it is possible to pass. Any upper-level math class will require work, and it's up to you to fulfill that responsibility. There are about two homework assignments due weekly with one day in between. You are able to earn 3% extra credit if you complete the homework more than 24 hours before the deadline. I recommend trying to finish the homework a day before the hard deadline. Even though the extra credit may not impact your grade a whole lot, it gives you more time to ask questions if you are lost on a question, so you aren't panicking hours before it is due.

The assessment questions are very similar to the ones given on the lecture packets, so I would also study those the most. There are warm-up exercises for every assessment, and the first three are simple, short problems that test your basic knowledge of the chapter. Sometimes they repeat, so if you get some of them incorrect, I would check your work after the assessment is graded in case it shows up again. I found it stressful to have tests every week worth the majority of your grade, but after a while I got used to it and I'm sure you will too (if Dusty keeps this same course format). Finally, participate during class! If you ever catch Dusty making a mistake, you could

possibly get an extra-credit point for pointing it out. Overall, this instructor is personable, and you shouldn't find it difficult to feel comfortable in class.

I hope that this letter is helpful to you in giving insight to a typical courseload for Dusty's classes and for you to feel encouraged this quarter. Getting to linear algebra is no small feat- give yourself some credit! Thank you for taking the time to read my advice.

With warm regards,

Gloria Kim

Hello Future student,

My name is Samantha Rock, and I was previously a calc 3 student in Dusty's class. I am a Computer Science Major, but I am also a senior in high school, completing running start. For extra context, I am a math person, especially when it comes to logic and learning new complex topics. While this does not mean I am always excellent at learning these topics, I enjoy it.

This quarter has been very interesting, like other students one of my biggest struggles this quarter was staying motivated. In the middle of the quarter, I ended up really frustrated, with work/content from other classes, while also experiencing great setbacks outside of schooling. And I ended up very close to burnout. To get through these struggles, I found making a list or a planner saved me. By writing down all the tasks I needed to do I avoided accidentally missing assignments while also minimizing stress because I knew exactly what I needed to do day by day.

Whether math is your thing or if it isn't, my biggest piece of advice for you in this class is to not think about every single assignment as just a grade, especially the Homework's. I understand this may be difficult especially if you don't like math and you really need to just pass, but I have found that if you treat class problems and homework, more of a practice for an exam, or an opportunity to learn the material, you tend to inhabit a deeper understanding of the material and you remember it better. While this may seem more time consuming, by the time you're reviewing for a weekly assessment or the Final, you're going to remember and truly understand the material so much more than if you didn't, and you won't have to spend as much time studying/cramming and stressing than before.

Being able to do this however also depends on when you are completing your assignments, this is why my second piece of advice is to start your assignment early. Which is

hard to do, especially with all of your other classes, that is why I urge you to start this habit right away. This way you can take advantage of extra credit on Homework's while also having time to ask questions when you get stuck. If you start early right off the bat, you don't have to spend time in the middle of the quarter to get ahead of schedule, your homework schedule for this class is just a couple days ahead of the due date. This way you also have less stress and don't have to treat each assignment as just a grade, because you have the time to treat it as it's supposed to be, a chance to practice your new skills.

Lastly, even if math is not your thing, this is going to be a fun class, whether that is discussing history or math philosophy, or learning about Dusty's fur hat, there will be moments that are quite enjoyable. I encourage you to lean into these moments and enjoy your next quarter even when you're struggling. I don't know you, but I know you can do it, you have a community around you supporting you and are there to help you succeed.

Dear future calculus student,

Calculus is a class that is not easy. There are many formulas and topics, making it hard for many students to keep track of everything. But there are many ways that your journey in Calculus can be easier if you use the given options. Office hours are one of the most important aspects of your success. It's a time where you can ask as many questions as you want and get as many answers as you need, and a time where a teacher can help you with the topics you don't feel comfortable with. I had the opportunity to go to office hours, but I did not, which I now regret. Also, do not stop reviewing and preparing for an assessment. The benefit of having an assessment every week is that you don't have to remember everything until the final exam, so you can just remember everything that you learned that week. That is a big benefit since you know what exactly could be on an assessment and can prepare for it accordingly.

The students who might think that they aren't good at math should stop saying that to themselves; it is just letting you down. If you have confidence in yourself, you have the mindset that you will succeed, and that is what is going to carry you throughout this course. When this quarter started, I didn't know much about what we were learning; it was mostly new topics, but I studied, and it helped me understand what we were learning. Don't let a bad grade on an assessment bring you down.

A big struggle that I personally faced in the class was having the confidence to ask a question. I hope that you guys aren't going to be like me and ask questions in class. There may be other students in the class that don't understand it as well, and the teacher can help you and others understand what is happening. Study groups are another amazing way to get answers to the questions that you might have. This quarter, I was lucky to be able to go to a study group, which helped me in many ways.

Lastly, try to come to class as often as possible. Sometimes, if you don't come to class, you miss what is being taught, and although there may be videos to help you, it would be the same as in class. You can't ask a question if you have one; you can't comment; and being present can really make a difference. Sometimes, a teacher can drop a hint about what is on the assessment, but you would only know if you came to class. Overall, no matter how hard Calculus is, never stop trying to achieve your goals. It may be hard, but you can make it through the course. I wish you all the luck in the world in your classes, and I hope that you consider some of the things I mentioned. I guarantee you that they will help you in some way, whether on the homework assignments or the assessments. Good Luck!

12/11/22

My name is Ibrahiim Abdi and I am a student at Highline College. I am majoring in Mechanical engineering, and this is my third and hopefully final, year at Highline. As we all know, being a student comes with its own set of challenges and trials, and we as students must find out how we can juggle are schoolwork along with whatever else life throws at us.

One challenge that I went through this quarter was utilizing effective study methods. The method of studying is the foundation on which you will build from so its important to set a strong foundation. Many people including I, have difficulty is extracting relevant information from a textbook that is just filled with rows of intimidating and confusing formulas. Personally, it's harder to build institution from that. The best ways that I found to build intuition is the good old-fashioned way, practice! Going through as much problems as you can and targeting the hardest ones will make your brain work overdrive and will cause it to retain the information better. Its even better if you have a study buddy who can push you and you can push them so as not to lose focus.

Luckily, Dusty is a great teacher who helps push students and give them any opportunity to succeed. The class is also set up in a way where the concepts are organized and easy to understand for your convenience. The easiest way to succeed in class is to engage in class discussion and to ask for help when you need it. One that I hope you as well as I implement is forming study groups. Dusty organized us some study groups and from the few times I've went, I as well as other have noted it being a massive help. So don't be afraid to work with classmates because you all have the same goal in hand.

Remember that end goal at hand, things may be tough in the beginning, and you may also fail a lot, but as long as you have that conviction in your heart that it will get better, it will. It is all done to our mindset and how we are thinking about our situation. It's important to feel a little anxiety because it shows that you care, and you shouldn't be so relaxed as to becoming overconfident in your abilities to where you stop wanting to improve.

Hi future students, it is my pleasure to write a letter about my experiences in Calculus III class to you all. I truly hope this letter finds you well. My name is Aurie Huynh, a nickname derived from Aurelia which is the name of a moon jellyfish species. I know it's hilarious but it is unique. I am currently (in Fall 2022) a second year international student at Highline, and I am interested in engineering and the medical field. I chose to take this class originally only because of my degree requirements, but what the class taught is a whole new level of knowledge, and a great adventure to explore.

At first, just like any other classmates in Calculus III, I struggled a lot due to the lack of confidence and the concepts were a bit new to me to understand everything at once. I would say the power series is the most challenging to me, but I managed to get a good understanding about it after the assessment because I know what my weakness is.

One big advice is that **DO NOT PROCRASTINATE ON WATCHING THE VIDEOS** that Dusty posted on his website. That was the worst "move" that I've ever made in this class because I was falling behind a lot more than everyone else. Also, the homework is useful, and it is worth it to try to finish the homework before deadlines. The extra credit in the homework adds up, and increases your grades way more than you think, so it is best to complete everything a day before the due dates.

Besides, I think the most important thing for a student to do excellently not only in Calculus III, but any other classes is having a study group. The people who you will work with throughout the quarter will solve a hard problem with you, encourage you, help you to be well-prepared for any assessments, strive with you through any challenges you may face, and they will also cry with you as well. **DO NOT CRY ALONE** when you are able to have your wonderful friends to cry together with. It is the foremost thing that I am grateful for in this quarter.

With this one piece of element in the class that helps make my Fall quarter most interesting and enjoyable so far is having Dusty as our instructor. The first day stepping in Dusty's classroom in building 17, the fluffy hat that he wore captured my attention right away, and I know for sure this would be the awesome-est class that I have in this quarter. Having a good instructor is extremely, most importantly, and super helpful to guide one through a whole new world of mathematics. If you are still reading this message until now, congrats! You will have a great quarter ahead for you to explore with your wonderful classmates and instructor.

Everyone almost always has something going on in their life that challenges them and makes them avoid taking actions to be successful and strive for a better version of themselves. I know you, yes **YOU** won't avoid the obstacles ahead of you, and will give your best shot to achieve your goals. It is tough to try to take control of everything at once in your life, but remember this, you must live to the fullest every single day that you are able to because not everyone can do that. You are allowed to fail, to make mistakes, to fall behind in classes, to cry, but one thing to never forget is to stand back up on your own feet, and fight for it again and again every time you fall. I know that you are capable of achieving anything and there is so much potential in you to learn and grow. Best wishes to you on your journey!

Dear Linear Algebra students,

My name is Mahri Yalkapova and I'm an international student from Turkmenistan. I came to US and to Highline to study Computer Science and I'm almost done with my AS degree. Next year I will be transferring to a 4-year university, but I'm not really sure which one yet. I'm finishing up my Calculus 3 class and this is my first time taking Dusty. I also work as a math tutor here at Highline and hopefully I finish this class with a 3.5 so I can tutor it too.

Taking 3 stem classes in a quarter is not that easy as I thought it would be. And I can say that this quarter has been by far the hardest for me. I thought that everything we learned in class made sense until I got my grades for weekly assessment. And somewhere in the middle of the quarter I got so worried about my classes that I developed a test anxiety. At that time, I realized that I should stop doing whatever I was doing and change my study habits. One of my worst enemies is procrastination and even though I tried doing assignments early, for some reason I still ended up doing them last minute every time.

One of the things I changed that helped me prepare for the tests better was doing practice problems before the test and not just look over notes, but summarize out loud the topic or the steps to solve a certain problem. Saying it out loud made me remember the material better and I think is one of the reasons I started getting better results. And I would highly encourage to take advantage of extra credits and do homework early as it was due the day before the actual due date. Another thing that helped me a lot to understand the material, was participating in class. It made me comprehend the topic better when I answered questions that Dusty was asking in the classroom. And you can also get extra credit if you catch him making a mistake, which encouraged us to be more attentive in his class.

Always remember that you're not alone in your learning journey and never ever hesitate to get help and ask questions. And don't be afraid to ask them in the classroom, because there might be a chance that other students are also having the same question. And don't give up, even if it feels like it's too late, remember that the only way you can pursue your dreams is through hard work. Also, don't forget to take breaks and it's okay if you don't study 24/7, because there is no need for that.

I have some strict tips you can follow to do well in this class:

First, watch the videos Dusty posts before you come to class!! Make sure you have some questions from the work-alongs (packets) you can ask in class so you're on top of your topics/concepts. When you get home make sure to practice those concepts, there are videos online and practice problems everywhere! This is personally something I noticed helped: DONT do your homework until after you've learned the concepts well and did practice online. If you do that, the homework will be a breeze. DONT do the homework last minute, Dusty gives extra credit on the homework if you do it early, so think about the homework being due the day before it's actually due. DONT study for the weekly assessments last minute, trust me it's not worth the stress. Write out a summary of each chapter. Something my older sister taught me is to look over the old topics after each week even if you just skim through them, watch how ready you will be when finals come around :). Proven to work in case you're wondering!

If you feel like you're having a hard time with Dusty's class, talk to him. He is a great teacher and will definitely lend you a hand. If your imposter syndrome is kicking in, try to talk positively to yourself. Find a support system or try to spend time doing things you enjoy. A very important thing is to take care of your health, your well being comes first before school!!! Don't skip meals and always try to come to school with enough sleep. You can not do well in school if you're not taking care of yourself. Remember, this time in school is just a stepping stone for you to accomplish big things, work hard and you'll see it pay off :)

Hello!

My name is Rukia Adan, I'm majoring in Engineering with more focus on Electrical. It's my second year at Highline college and to be frank, I have gone through a lot of different options before settling with engineering. I used to want to be a surgeon... I had a bit of an obsession with the medical world and I always imagined I'd end up in the medical field but it's quite funny how fate moves and how unexpected God's plans are for us. I believe I'll find something and fall in love with it along the way, so it should be for the best!! I'm a young Somali lady hoping to accomplish many things and make her loved ones as proud.

This quarter was pretty difficult. Mostly because of new changes to my daily life activities and trying to adapt to my new environment. Trying to take on more responsibilities was definitely a difficulty. I won't sugarcoat this, I was certainly disappointed in myself this quarter, I know I could have done much better. I know what mistakes to avoid for next quarter so I'm taking this as a learning opportunity. I will hold myself accountable and try to be more organized.

I made it through thanks to the support of my family, trying to remember the consequences at times, thinking of things I'm looking forward to and having a good support friend group at school that are working together on their classes. I say I made it through but I also think I didn't, only because I didn't reach my goals this quarter. Again, I'm taking this as a learning opportunity and will not beat myself up over it!

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Hello Future Linear Algebra student,

I hope your day is going well. I am Huy, and I am a Senior from Kentridge High School that is doing Running Start. I am in my second year at Highline. I am majoring in engineering though I am unsure of what engineering field I want to go into. I have a lot of expectations for myself because I am from an immigrant family. I started to recognize more of the hardships my parents had to endure to ensure that I would get a better education than in my home country, and I don't want to disappoint them at all. Though I had high expectations for myself coming into the fall quarter, the fall quarter completely slapped me in the face and made me rethink everything. Fall quarter of 2022 had been challenging for me because I couldn't balance my schedule well. Before I knew it, I found myself drowning in responsibilities due to going to school, working, being a captain for my high school tennis team, getting into a new relationship, and volunteering for my high school clubs. I couldn't manage all these things at the same time which forced me to cut out some to prioritize others. It was difficult for me to sit down and think about my priorities because all the things I was doing mattered to me. In the end, I chose to prioritize things that I wouldn't be able to do again in the future like school and my tennis team. Some advice I have to be successful in Dusty's class would be to make sure you are constantly practicing the contents in class. Dusty tries his best to help his students to be successful, but it won't matter unless you actively try to improve in the class. I have struggled in every single math class after Calculus 1 and looking back, I could've easily done better if I got more practice. Just practicing the contents for around 15 minutes each day will help you tremendously in remembering the contents. I predict that you will be reading this at the beginning of the quarter, so I hope you know that one bad assessment/quiz/score isn't everything. You have a lot of chances in the future to try and get your score up so don't get discouraged. I hope you will try to get the best grade despite all the things you have going on. Don't allow your challenges to give you an excuse to not do well on your tests. I did that at the beginning of the quarter and looking back at it now, I regret not trying my best. Good luck on this quarter and make sure to take care of yourself

Discussion Seminar IX: Letter to a Future Student

Overview: This week you have a chance to reflect, direct, and encourage a future student. Please write a 1+ page letter to my linear algebra students next quarter.

1.) Introduce yourself, what you are majoring in, and a bit about your background.

Hello, my name is Jacob and I am majoring in Mechanical Engineering. I'm a running start student and I am currently taking Calc 3 with Dusty. I am taking his class during the Fall 2022 quarter and this is the beginning of my second year at Highline as I am a senior in high school.

2.) What were some of the challenges you faced this quarter (personally or as a student) and how did you make it through?

Some of the challenges I faced as a student this quarter was keeping up with homework and studying. As a high school student that wanted to push himself to do more and decided to make the move to community college, I have been loaded with classes. High school never pushed me that hard, so when I stepped into a much faster paced environment it has been hard to keep up with the work, especially because of the requirements for engineering. To try and combat these challenges with tough classes I would suggest reviewing material often and working with classmates. It has always helped me to work out a problem with someone because explaining math helps it stick. Another challenge that I have faced is just myself personally struggling. Some things just don't always go your way in life, but this doesn't mean give up. If you are having a hard time with personal things or school, my advice is to just always believe in yourself. Have confidence. Even if it seems like you might fail, just keep trying. This is one of the most important things I have tried to practice. Too many times I encounter a challenge in my life and I don't even feel like trying, but if you don't try then failure is basically guaranteed.

3.) What advice do you have for being successful in a class taught by Dusty?

One piece of advice I have for being successful in a class taught by Dusty is to always ask questions. He is a very open and kind person. He won't judge you at all. Even if you think your question is stupid or too simple, he will always answer with a great response and not judge. If you don't want to ask the question in class or you have a question that comes up from homework he will always answer it at office hours. Also, watch the youtube videos! They are great sources to look at the content early or again if you want. Plus, Dusty usually uses multiple techniques to explain a topic. So, in the video he will likely read from his packet and explain, while in class he will use more visual examples as another way to help the students digest the content.

4.) Please end your letter with something to encourage the reader.

In the end, you should be fine. Dusty is a very nice instructor. He is very open, has funny stories, and makes the classroom feel as much like home as it can. He always has a great

attitude during class. To do well in his classes I encourage you to do the homework. If you can do it early then you can ask him questions. Also review often, because the weekly assessments are important. Other than that, in general just create a good schedule so that you can have good time management.

Hello, my name is Elena Pinto. I am a Physics major, but I still am deciding what I want my career path to be. I am a sophomore here at Highline CC as well as a transfer. For my first year of college, I went to a small school in Central Iowa, called Central College. I decided to go there mainly for soccer but after a long deliberation, I decided to come home. It wasn't for me. I wanted to come home and reset. I ended up coming to Highline to continue my education, get my AA and play soccer here. I am planning to transfer out once I get my AA in the Spring.

Some challenges I faced this quarter as a student included me working too much. In the beginning of the quarter, I was working 5pm - 9pm shifts about 4 days a week. Keep in mind that I was working throughout the soccer season. I had school from 9am - 12:15pm, soccer practice from 1pm to 3pm, and then work from 5pm - 9pm. There was no time for me to do my homework. I was staying up until 12am - 1am quite frequently. This was draining on me and ended up being a major factor in losing motivation. I ended up only working on Sundays for my job. This allowed me to really focus into getting my schoolwork done and got me back on track. I am a perfectionist. If I didn't do well on an assessment or homework, I am very hard on myself. It was hard for me to come to terms with not doing well in a class. College is a lot different than High School. You may find yourself a straight A student like me coming from High School to being ecstatic that you managed to get a C in Math. It happens, don't worry about it. What got me through this was reminding myself that once you get your degree that's it. Your employer is not going to look at your transcript to see if you got an A in Calculus 3. They are going to look at whether you got the degree or not. Doing your best is all you can do as a human being.

I advise you to stay on top of your work in a class that is led by Dusty. This quarter we moved fast, and I wasn't prepared for it. If you can try and get your work done as soon as possible you will be set up for success. Don't work 6 days out of the week like I did. I also advise you to not be scared to ask for help. Dusty is a very open and welcoming teacher; you don't have to be worried that he won't help you. He is very good at putting a complex concept into simpler words for his students to understand.

Just remember, a grade does not define who you are as a person. All you can do is do your best. I wish you the best of luck, you're going to do great!!