

MATH 105 WeBWork Satisfaction Survey

N = 118, xx% of enrolled

This is a selection of questions asked on a midterm survey in early March 2012.

1) Every week you are given a list of suggested homework problems from the textbook. On average, what portion of these suggested problems do you attempt?

%	Counts	
16%	19	most of them
15%	18	about half
22%	26	only a few
37%	43	none of them
10%	12	Other

2) Which of the following statements best describes your approach to answering questions on WeBWork?

%	counts	
10%	12	I answer most of the questions correctly at my first or second attempt.
38%	45	I often rework the same problem a few times on my own until I get the correct answer.
47%	55	I prefer to consult resources (notes, etc.) or ask for help if I can't find the correct answer right away.
5%	6	I often give up if I can't find the correct answer after a few attempts.

The same question was asked in Math 101 around the same period. Students in Math 101 seem to have better study strategies.

13%	I answer most of the questions correctly at my first or second attempt.
55%	I often rework the same problem a few times on my own until I get the correct answer.
28%	I prefer to consult resources (notes, etc.) or ask for help if I can't find the correct answer right away.
3%	I often give up if I can't find the correct answer after a few attempts.

A few things may affect the way students respond to this question. Math 101 students may have stronger math skills so they more correct their own errors. Math 101 students perceived more alignment between the webwork problems and the tests and class exams (see question 6) and found the webwork problems more similar in difficulty to the rest of the course (see question 4).

3) Do you find the "Email your instructor" option useful?

%	Counts	
7%	8	Very useful
16%	19	Somewhat useful
5%	6	Not useful at all
72%	85	Never used it

4) On average, how would you rate the mathematical difficulty of WeBWork problems relative to other problems in the course?

%	Counts		(% in Math 101)
0.8%	1	Much easier	0.5%
6%	7	A little easier	5%
17%	20	About the same	32%
30%	36	A little harder	41%
44%	52	Much harder	20%
1%	2	Not comparable	0.3%

5) On average, how often was the syntax required to submit an answer to WebWork an obstacle in completing your assignment?

%	counts	
10%	12	Never
27%	31	Only once or twice this term
38%	45	About once every few assignments
19%	22	Most weeks syntax is an issue in a few problems
6%	7	Most weeks syntax is an issue in most problems

6) Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

As a comparison, I included answers to the same question collected in Math 101, where students found online homework more aligned to exams and class examples and less frustrating because of its difficulty.

	%	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
WeBWork problems are related to problems on tests and/or class examples.	105	15	48	20	14	3
	101	30	53	9	5	1.6
WeBWork problems are good practice for solving problems on tests.	105	19	53	19	7	3
	101	35	49	11	4	0.5
The immediate responses I get from WeBWork help me learn the course material.	105	19	34	24	16	7
	101	26	38	22	9.5	4.4
I often get frustrated with WeBWork problems due to their mathematical difficulty.	105	37	33	19	9	2
	101	15	33	29	20	2.5
I often get frustrated by the particular syntax required to submit answers to WeBWork.	105	21	24	38	16	2
	101	19	29.5	25	17	8

7) If you were to take a similar course again, which homework option would you prefer? Assume each suggested option is worth the same percentage of your final course grade.

%	counts	
36%	42	A combination of WeBWork and short hand-in written assignments that are returned a week later.
21%	25	Only written hand-in assignments, that are returned a week later (possibly only part of them graded).
26%	31	Only WeBWork assignments.
10%	12	A combination of WeBWork assignments and short in-class quizzes (in addition to regular midterm exams).
9%	32	No homework assignments, just a list of suggested homework and in-class quizzes (in addition to regular midterm exams).