Math E-15 Fall 2016 Distance Student FAQ

Have you ever done this before? Yes! This is the fifth consecutive semester we have offered Math E-15 with an online option. We have had students taking the course on six continents (and on a research vessel off the coast of Antarctica!) in countries including Afghanistan, Australia, Bahamas, Canada, China, England, Germany, India, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, United Arab Emirates, and Thailand, as well as many states in the U.S. We were excited to be able to provide the course to so many students who previously would not have been able to take it. And the feedback we received from distance students on the course evaluations was overwhelmingly positive; they reported that it was convenient to watch the lectures and easy to ask questions and get answers in the online discussion forum.

How do I watch the lectures and review sessions (and seminars for graduate credit students)? All of these will be both streamed live and recorded for later viewing; the live streams and the recordings will be available on our Canvas site. During the live stream, students can post questions and comments by logging in to Canvas and clicking on the Chat item in the left column.

How do I submit homework? Please see the Homework Policies page on our course website.

How do I take exams? Please see the Exam Policies page on our course website.

How will I get feedback on my work? Within one week of when you submit each homework assignment, the assignment will be returned to you with a score and comments in Canvas. Graded exams will also usually be returned to you in Canvas within a week; note that if your proctor is late in sending Harvard your exam, you might not receive your graded exam at the same time as the other students. We have found that when students view graded exams on phones or tablets, the comments written by the grader sometimes do not appear; therefore, if you do not see any comments on an exam that has been returned to you, please try viewing it on a desktop or laptop computer. Solutions to each homework assignment and exam will also be posted in Canvas.

What if I have questions on course material? We realize that not all students will have the opportunity to ask questions “live” during the lectures or review sessions, so we welcome questions posted in the online discussion forum within Canvas and questions sent by email. When writing these questions, please try to be as specific as possible. For example, during the first lecture we will spend 20 or 30 minutes discussing inverse functions. A question such as “I don’t understand inverse functions. Can you please explain them to me?” is too general, and the only response we can give to such a question is to ask you to rewatch that section of the video and then write again with a more specific question. On the other hand, a question such as “When you were doing the example about drawing the graph of an inverse function, I don’t understand why if (2,8) is on the graph of f then (8,2) is on the graph of the inverse of f. Could you explain that?” is very specific and will be much easier for us to answer.

What if I have technical questions about viewing the videos? Harvard’s webpage at http://www.extension.harvard.edu/academics/courses/types-courses/video-course-guidelines answers many such questions and tells you how to get additional help.