



To: All New Students
Re: Math Review Workshop
Date: August 2014

The program of study at HSPH emphasizes quantitative methods. All HSPH students are required to take an introductory biostatistics course (BIO 200 OR 201 in the Fall, or BIO 202 AND 203 in the Summer) in accordance with department or program guidelines or requirements. Students with adequate previous preparation through a graduate level course who wish to be exempted from this requirement must apply to the Department of Biostatistics for a waiver.

We have found that many new students enrolled in introductory biostatistics courses have not used quantitative methods for some time and may have forgotten some of the elements of simple algebra. To help you assess your numerical literacy, a short math self-test is enclosed. The answers are included. If you are not completely comfortable with these concepts, we urge you to study an introductory college mathematics text this summer or take a course to review. A non-credit optional mathematics refresher workshop consisting of self-instructional web content and three lectures will be offered at HSPH free of charge to all new students:

An outline of the course content is attached and a review workbook (the only required textbook) will be supplied to you on Wednesday, August 27 at the beginning of the review.

For a general text on biostatistics, you may wish to look at the text used last year in Biostatistics 200: Principles of Biostatistics, 2nd edition by Marcello Pagano and Kimberlee Gauvreau, published by Wadsworth Press. It is available from the publishers, ISBN# 0-534-22902-6, telephone: 1-800-354-9706. Please note that this year's biostatistics courses, such as Bio 200, 201 and 205, may use different texts. The exact texts and title information will be available in September.

We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

MATH REVIEW CONTINGENCY NOTE

Students whose acceptance to HSPH is contingent on completing the Math Review Workshop

must pre-register for the workshop online <http://bit.ly/mathreviewregistration>

Don't forget to register for access to the Math Review CANVAS website <http://bit.ly/canvasregistration>

MATH REVIEW WORKSHOP 2014

Web content on-line https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/879	Kinds of Numbers and Data, Fractions, Negative Kinds of Numbers, Rounding, Averaging, Properties of Real Numbers, Exponents and Square Roots, Scientific Notation, Order of Operations, Evaluating Variable Expressions
Math Review I Wednesday, August 27, Kresge G1; 8:00 - 10:00am	Greatest Hits of the Online Modules
Math Review II Thursday, August 28, Kresge G1; 8:00 - 10:00am	Functions, Logarithms, and Exponentials
Math Review III Friday, August 29, Kresge G1; 8:00 - 10:00am	Solving Word Problems using Functions and Inequalities
Math Review IV Friday, August 29, Kresge G1; 10:00 - 12:00pm	Factorials and Combinations Summation and Product Notation

You will need a calculator that is capable of doing square roots and logarithms for this review. Any equivalent calculator that has a square root button, a “LN” button, and an exponent button will do. You can purchase such a calculator at drug stores and office supply stores. You should bring your calculator to class every day.

The course workbook contains all the information you will need for the class; there is no additional textbook. If you feel the need to purchase a book with additional practice exercises, here are a couple of books that might be useful:

Master Math: Basic Math and Pre-Algebra

Debra Ann Ross.

Career Press, 2009, 178 pages.

Quick Algebra Review: A Self-Teaching Guide

Peter H. Selby and Steve Slavin.

Wiley, 1993, 232 pages.

Both of these are available from amazon.com and ship within a few days.