1 Getting access to our course

First, make sure you know which section of MATH 123 you are in. Section 1 meets 8:40-9:50, and Section 2 meets 10:30-11:50. The Class Key for Section 1 is “fredonia 7863 8260”, and the Class Key for Section 2 is “fredonia 2149 8403”.

You will not be able to access the course page for your section until the course start date, which is August 21. I set it to the first day of classes in order make the grace period last as far into the semester as possible. There is a two week grace period starting from that date (and ending September 4) when you will be able to access this course automatically. However, in order to continue doing assignments beyond the grace period, you’ll need to gain official access to our WebAssign course. Some of you used the Stewart (Early Transcendentals, 8th Edition) textbook in a previous semester and obtained life of the edition access; you should already be set for the semester, as long as you use the same WebAssign account. However, the login procedure has changed! Over the summer, WebAssign began requiring a Cengage account in order to use WebAssign. So, you will need to click on “Create Account” to do this, and then link your WebAssign account to your Cengage account. For those who already had WebAssign accounts, your account information is still the same as you left it for linking purposes. Let me know if you encounter issues in linking your accounts.

Start by going to the WebAssign login page,

https://www.webassign.net/wa-auth/login.

(There is a link to it on our official course web page.) Click on “Enroll with Class Key”. On the next screen, enter your Class Key from above. Follow the instructions on the next screens from there. If you do not already have an account, please use your Fredonia e-Services ID (four letters followed by four numbers) as your Username. When you first attempt to enter the course page, if you do not already have official access, you’ll be prompted to purchase access online or enter an access code. A code should be included on
a card bundled with your textbook if you bought it at the campus bookstore. (New for the Fall 2017 semester: access codes will also be available separately in the bookstore.) If you don’t have an access code, you’ll need to purchase access on the web site after you log in. This requires a credit card. (Debit cards are not accepted.) It costs $100 for one semester or $125 for unlimited “Lifetime of Edition” access. The latter option will be cheaper if you plan to take calculus for more than one semester. Both options include electronic access to the textbook. During the grace period, there will also be an option to bypass the access gate temporarily. However, be sure to obtain official access before the grace period expires!

The WebAssign help page at https://www.webassign.com/support/student-support/access-codes/ has additional information, although the above is more specific to our class. Let me know if you have any questions!

2 Using WebAssign

I strongly recommend that each student keep a separate notebook or binder to record all work on WebAssign problems. This will be useful both in helping me understand any questions that you have about the problems and in helping you organize your thoughts and learn the material.

Click the plus sign next to the problem number in the blue box to see details about the problem. This will tell you how many points each blank in the problem is worth, as well as the maximum number of attempts you are allowed to submit and how many submissions you have used. If you leave a blank empty when you submit new answers for the problem, no submission will be counted against that blank. Thus, you can submit one entry at a time if you like.

Some problems have additional helpful features such as video examples, tutor steps, or links to the ebook of our text. In a video example, someone actually talks through a similar problem while the screen shows computations and/or pictures. An ebook link takes you directly to the relevant pages in the textbook.

After an assignment is due, full solutions to the problems appear on WebAssign. Click on “Past” under Assignments to see previous assignments. “Click to View Solution” will be listed underneath each problem. This will help you understand any mistakes you might have made in working the problems and will provide examples of how to communicate your work
appropriately. However, the solution shows only one way to do a problem, and there are sometimes multiple ways. If you tried a different approach or have questions about the solution provided, feel free to ask me!

For any problem that requires entering a mathematical expression (not just a number), a calcPad or similarly named menu will be present. Working with the calcPad takes a little practice. In order to get out of an exponent or denominator, you need to hit the right arrow key. To enter a Greek letter like $\theta$, just type the word “theta”, and it will turn into the correct symbol. Similarly, typing “infinity” produces $\infty$, and so forth. As with most computer programs, WebAssign insists on expressions being entered correctly. So you must use the variable symbol(s) specified in the problem statement and put all parentheses in the correct locations. However, if you enter any answer algebraically equivalent to the one WebAssign is expecting, it should be accepted as correct. If WebAssign does not give you credit for an answer you’re sure is correct, check with me about it.

Students occasionally have problems getting the calcPad to open or accept entries. In this case, try using a different browser or a different computer. If the problem persists, let me know as soon as possible.