



## Traditional Or TECH Classes

The Community College of Aurora has a diverse body of students, and as such we try to offer multiple ways for students to learn.

1. What is the difference between a TECH class and a traditional math class?
2. I need a live person to explain math to me. Will this minimize the amount of time I have with my teacher?
3. How will the instructor know what questions I have prior to coming to class?
4. What exactly will happen during a class?
5. How does the homework in a redesigned math class differ from a traditional class?
6. Will I need a computer at home or high speed internet access to be able to take this class?
7. Will this class be more expensive?
8. Can I work at a faster pace?

## Frequently Asked Questions

In a traditional math class, you gain your first exposure to a new math topic by watching a lecture presented by an instructor. Due to time constraints, this often means rushing through material at the end of class. You are then asked to do homework on your own time, which is often a time that you have the most questions but the least amount help.

A **TECH** class takes advantage of technology to expose you to the most basic fundamentals of a new topic prior to a class meeting through tutorial videos and interactive software. This approach allows you to attend class already having been exposed to new definitions and the types of problems you will be learning. You will also be going to class with already formed questions, which will make your learning more effective.

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## Question 1:

What is the difference between a TECH class and a traditional math class?

Not at all. The goal of the videos and the tutorial software is not to give you a full understanding. It is designed to give you a familiarity with a topic. In fact, it is expected that you will come to class with questions that your instructor can use to focus the lecture into a much more efficient learning tool, thus making class time more effective.

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## Question 2:

I need a live person to explain math to me. Will this minimize the amount of time I have with my teacher?

In addition to watching tutorial videos, you will be asked to do a 5-10 problem assignment using a software product called MyMathLab. MyMathLab allows your instructor to see the problems that are most commonly done correctly and incorrectly by you and your classmates. This makes the lecture more efficient because it allows your instructor to spend less time on well understood examples and more time on the less understood examples.

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## Question 3:

How will the instructor know what questions I have prior to coming to class?

Class time will be used in two ways. Your instructor will only need to spend about half of the time lecturing on new material. The other half of the class will be used for practicing what you have learned during a time that your instructor is readily available. This means doing your homework in MyMathLab while your instructor is available for questions.

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## Question 4:

What exactly will happen during a class?

In a traditional class, you may be asked to turn in 20-30 problems without knowing if you got the correct answer until it is graded and returned to you. If you are doing a problem incorrectly, this can lead to developing bad habits that can be hard to correct. Additionally, if you are struggling with a problem, you are often left without any resources to help you.

In a TECH class, homework is done through the software MyMathLab, which gives several advantages. It gives you immediate feedback on whether the problem has been done correctly or not. If you incorrectly answered a question, you can rework the problem until you get it correct in order to create good habits. If you get stuck on how to solve a problem, MyMathLab is able to take you through the solution step by step or it can give you a solution to a similar example. For some problems, there is even a video solution of a similar example.

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## Question 5:

How does the homework in a TECH class differ from a traditional class?

It is highly recommended, but the answer is no. Without a computer or high speed internet access, however, you will be required to schedule enough time in one of CCA's computer labs to prepare yourself before going to class and for doing homework assignments.

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## Question 6:

Will I need a computer at home or high speed internet access to be able to take this class?

The cost of the class is the same, but it does give you the option of getting your textbook in an electronic format at a cost of 65% of the printed text.

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## Question 7:

Will this class be more expensive?

Yes, you can. It is even possible to finish more than one course in a single semester.

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## Question 8:

Can I work at a faster pace?

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