

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE  
Department of Mathematics  
Rockville Campus

**Math 091 – Elementary Algebra**

Welcome to Elementary Algebra and the I Can Learn (ICL) software. This course uses the advantages of multimedia technology to present algebra in a clear and engaging manner. A video teacher will demonstrate the algebra skills and concepts on the computer screen while a Montgomery College mathematics teacher will be available to assist you individually with any difficulties you might encounter. Practice problems and quiz questions will also be displayed on the screen. Instructions for using the software are given in the front of your textbook.

You may finish the course early and you are encouraged to do so. You will be provided a schedule, which tells you approximately where you should be in the course each day in order to complete the material. **It is very important that you not fall behind this schedule if you plan to pass the course this semester. As for any class, you will need to spend time outside of class learning the course content.** You will probably find that for this course, some of the outside of class time is best spent here in the computer lab during open lab time – whether you are working ahead, keeping up, or catching up. A lab schedule listing hours that this room is open will be provided for this purpose.

The course is divided into multiple lessons. Each lesson covers a specific algebra skill or concept. The format for each lesson is the same: pretest, presentation and guided practice, and homework assignments.

**Pretest**

The pretest is used to find out how much you already know about the concept that is going to be taught in the current lesson. You will be given a series of questions, each of which should be worked out in detail in the pretest/quiz section of your notebook. After you enter your answer, the computer will indicate whether or not your answer is correct. If it is correct, you will move to the next question. If it is incorrect, you will move to the video presentation for that lesson. If all of your answers are correct, you may choose to skip to the next lesson or to continue with the current lesson. If you do choose to skip to the next lesson, your recorded quiz grade for this lesson will be 100%.

**OVER**

## **Lesson Presentation/ICL Tutor**

The video presentation is the main part of the lesson. Here the video teacher will introduce algebra concepts and demonstrate examples. For each video presentation you should record the title of the lesson and take careful notes in the Notes section of your notebook. Although you do not have to enter any answers to the problems in this section, you should try working them out in your notebook as the video teacher instructs.

After you finish the lesson presentation, you will move to the ICL tutor, which will allow you to test your knowledge of the material that was just taught. You will be given practice problems to work out. You should write down and solve each problem in detail in the Notes section of your notebook and compare your final answer to the answer given by the computer. The software will then demonstrate the solution to the problem. After the guided practice, there is a pause in the program. At this point, you must decide if you are ready to take the quiz on this lesson. If you feel you understand the lesson well, you should proceed with the quiz. If not, you should first review your notes, review the practice problems you solved during the lesson, and do the homework assigned for this lesson. Ask your instructor for assistance on any items that are still unclear. You will be allowed 20 minutes to complete the quiz **so it is very important to check to see if you have enough time remaining in the period to complete the quiz.**

## **Quiz**

The quiz is used to determine if you have truly mastered the current lesson. You will be given a series of questions, each of which should be written down and solved in detail in the Quiz section of your notebook. You should then enter the answer on the computer. You can move forward or backward in the questions. **Be careful not to skip any questions.** The current time and the time the quiz ends are displayed on the screen. After completing the quiz, the computer will grade it and record your grade in the gradebook. If you receive 70% or above on the quiz, you will be moved on to the next lesson. If you do not receive that score on the quiz, you must repeat the lesson. In either case, you should go over the questions you missed with your instructor.

## **Homework Assignments**

You will receive a handout containing homework assignments for the course. You should solve the homework in detail in the Homework section of your notebook as soon as possible after completing the lesson. Doing the homework will reinforce the concepts just presented and prepare you for the quizzes and exams. A brief explanation of the concepts covered in the lesson appears in the textbook preceding the problems. You will be required to turn in your homework when you take an exam.

In addition to this handout you will receive: a syllabus from your instructor; a schedule for completing the course on time, together with a list of homework assignments; and a lab schedule listing hours that the ICL lab is open.