Should you switch to PsTL 0722 Introductory Algebra?

The Math 1051 diagnostic pretest you took on the first day of class was designed to tell us if you recall the high school algebra skills you will need in order to be successful in a college-level math course. In Math 1051 we will do a review of high school algebra during the first three weeks of the semester but that will go pretty fast and it is only intended to get you acclimated to thinking algebraically. This might not be enough to get you fully up to speed.

If you think you will only need a brief review and things will come back to you, stay in 1051 and see how it goes for the first two weeks. If, at the end of that time, you still are not comfortable with the algebra you can register for PsTL 0722 Introductory Algebra section 4. I designed that online course for students who need a more extensive review of high school algebra before doing college-level mathematics. The idea is that if you do well (A or B) you would be able to register for a college-level mathematics course for the next semester. After taking 0722 if you still need more review work then you could register for PsTL 0732 Intermediate Algebra for next semester and then college algebra or precalculus after that. The term for PsTL 0722 section 4 runs from 27 September 2012 through 13 January 2013.

Before switching, you should talk to your adviser just to be sure there are no "hidden snags". Depending on your college and year you may need me to sign a petition to add the course.

If you want to do the switch, cancel your current math course and add PsTL 0722 ON THE SAME DAY because if you do the drop on one day and then add on another day it might mess up your tuition assessment.

PsTL 0722 is a 4-credit equivalent course, which means that it counts as 4 credits for athletic eligibility, full time status, financial aid, etc., but it does not count in the 120 credits you need to graduate. Hence it is listed as 0 credits. It covers the concepts and procedures of a first course in algebra at a level of difficulty and abstraction geared for students enrolled at a research university. Topics covered include signed numbers, simplifying expressions, solving equations and systems, graphing, factoring, polynomials, rational expressions, roots, and word problems.

Because PsTL 0722 is a computer-mediated course, there are no lectures. You will get the "lectures" from a multimedia program that you access through the web so you will need to have access to a computer with an internet connection. You can use your own computer or one in a public lab on campus. Lab locations and hours are available at http://www.oit.umn.edu/computerlabs/. When you finish a computer lesson, you will do the assigned homework and mail it to me. I will grade it and mail it back to you. We keep going like this throughout the semester. We do the exams the same way.

If you would like to see more details on the course, check out my web site at http://www.cehd.umn.edu/PsTL/DougRobertson/
You can get free tutorial help through the SMART Learning Commons. Go to their web site at http://www.smart.umn.edu. There, you can see the schedule for drop-in tutoring.

Free mathematics tutors are also available through the **Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence**. MCAE has an instructional center in Appleby Hall rooms 141,149 and 151. The Center provides group and individual tutoring and is a place where students can take their time to learn and where students are not afraid to ask questions. For more information go to http://www.mcae.umn.edu/acadsupport/index.html

The School of Mathematics also has lists of tutors that you can hire to work with you individually. If you are interested, send an email to ugrad@math.umn.edu.

If you have any questions let me know.

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