

# Calculus **Taking an Exam** Dr. Laura Gross

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Below are highlights from *How to Ace Calculus: The Streetwise Guide*.<sup>1</sup>

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1. **Arrive on time.**
  2. **Read the problems carefully.**
  3. **Do the easier problems first.**
  4. **Get partial credit.** Show plenty of work. Do not leave a problem blank, instead write down *something* you know that is related to the problem. Also, if you can tell your answer came out wrong, briefly state how you know it's wrong: That shows more understanding than if you stop with the wrong answer.
  5. **Don't erase in panic.** Draw a single line across your work instead.
  6. **Don't leave early; check your work.** "Never, never, never (that's right, never) leave an exam early," says the *Guide*. [Your calculator sometimes comes in handy when you check your work.]
  7. **Go over the exam when it's returned.** You want to understand your mistakes so that you don't make them again. [This goes for quizzes and homework, too.]
- \* [**Don't waste time using your calculator.** Very few if any of our test problems are designed to be solved using a calculator. You can usually solve test problems more efficiently by hand.]

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<sup>1</sup>Colin Adams, Joel Hass, and Abigail Thompson, W. H. Freeman and Co., New York, 1998