

## IMPORTANT FACTS

- 1. Mat-010 is a course that focuses on basic computational skills and problem solving. The students who take this course have either never fully mastered the basic mathematics skills or learned them so long ago that they are out of practice. Your students will be diverse in many ways. They will be of different ages, different ability levels, different ethnicities and cultures, all with different levels of motivation. In general, the task of teaching Basic Mathematics can be both challenging and, when it works well, very rewarding.**
- 2. The textbook that is used for this course is Basic College Mathematics, Edition 2e, by Miller, O'Neill and Hyde, published by McGraw-Hill. An interesting feature of this edition of the text is that each chapter has a section called 'Problem Recognition Exercises'. These exercises present a collection of problems that look similar to the student, upon first glance, but are actually quite different in the manner of their individual solutions. The authors feel that working on these exercises may sharpen critical thinking skills and better develop 'solution recall' to distinguish the method needed to solve an exercise, an essential skill in mathematics.**

**This edition also includes group activities to bring a more interactive approach to teaching the material.**

- 3. There might be some students in your class who feel that they do not belong in Mat-010 and want to challenge their placement. There is a Challenge Test that they may take in order to waive the Mat-010 requirement and go on to Algebra I. This test must be taken by the end of the first week of classes (September 14). In order to take the test, students must call the Testing Center at (732) 906-2508 and make an appointment. Students should be told to take some time to review before taking the Challenge Test. A Challenge Test review packet is available in Center 2.**
- 4. There might be some students in your class who are struggling with whole number operations and who need a slower version of Mat-010. These students can change from your Mat-010 section to a Mat-010A class. Students have only 4 weeks from the beginning of the semester to make this switch. This is part 1 of the Mat-010 course and will be followed by Mat-010B in the next semester. (See the separate information sheet about this two semester- Mat-010 in this packet).**

- 5. It is suggested that Chapter 1 be taught in a streamlined fashion. Not much time should be spent on whole number operations. The major emphasis in Chapter 1 should be on reading, writing, and rounding whole numbers, properties with whole numbers, word problems with whole number and exponents, square roots and order of operations with whole numbers.**
  
- 6. Software – We are implementing a new concept this semester. We have had a great deal of success in many of our mathematics courses with a software program called Aleks. The students’ texts will come with an Aleks access code and you will have a specific course code generated for your class. Students will be doing the work on Aleks outside of class you will be able to see how they are doing throughout the semester. Aleks will be required for all Mat-010, 010A and 010B sections and will comprise 30% of the final grade. There will be both instructor and student guides to fully explain how Aleks works and how you will be using it. These will be available to you during the Aleks orientation and in Center 2. It is a very friendly and easy program and you do not have to be a ‘techie’ to use it. There will be an orientation during the week before classes start (Sept 1 for adjuncts and Sept 2 for full-time faculty) in order to make you comfortable with this aspect of the course.**

**There will also be an access code for a program called MathZone in the text, but usage of that program will remain optional.**

- 7. An item analysis of the final exam for Spring 09 was conducted. Information generated from this item analysis can be found in this booklet. There are worksheets in this booklet that correspond to the topics with which students have the most difficulty. There are also worksheets corresponding to these topics on MathZone site.**