MATH 120
INDEPENDENT STUDY

What it is and why it was developed
What is in the Coursepack

- College Mathematics multimedia edition
- Lecture video cd
- Course Guide
- Algebra Review Book
- Homework Assistant (HWA) software
- Supplemental Material cd
- Misc. Materials (e.g. Student information sheet)
Why custom Materials

What matters in textbooks: From the student’s perspective.
Based on the survey of over 500 students.
Why custom Materials

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✔ Black and White vs Color
Why custom Materials

What matters in textbooks: From the student’s perspective. Based on the survey of over 500 students.

✓ Black and White vs Color

Most students had no preference, but some said the color can become distracting while others said they could not even see the colors because they were colorblind.
Why custom Materials

What matters in textbooks: From the student’s perspective.
Based on the survey of over 500 students.

- **Black and White** vs Color
- Soft bound vs Hard bound
Why make custom Materials

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☑ **Black and White** vs Color
☑ **Soft bound** vs Hard bound

Soft bound books weigh less.
Why make custom Materials

What matters in textbooks: From the student’s perspective.
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- **Black and White** vs Color
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- Pretty pictures (Not including figures and diagrams)
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What matters in textbooks: From the student’s perspective. Based on the survey of over 500 students.

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Often makes the book look like a high school textbook.
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- ✗ Pretty pictures (Not including figures and diagrams)
- ✓ Extra Material (Sections not covered)
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Why are they not covered?
Do I pay more for them?
Should I know what is and is not important in the textbook?
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Less than 1% found them interesting.
More than 50% found them distracting.
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- Inexpensive vs Expensive vs Free(online)
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× Stories and Asides
✓ **Inexpensive** vs Expensive vs Free(online)

Why not free online only?
Most students prefer having a book.
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- Extra Material (Sections not covered)
- Stories and Asides
- **Inexpensive** vs Expensive vs Free(online)
- Paying for unused supplements
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It shows we care!!

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Why custom Materials

Instructor perspectives
Why custom Materials

Instructor perspectives

✓ The text covers what you want.

We should be developing our courses first and then finding materials that cover what we have developed.
Why custom Materials

Instructor perspectives

✓ The text covers what you want.
✓ New editions when you need them and only when you need them.

We waste too much time and effort updating our classes for new editions which have no impact on content or student success.
Why custom Materials

Instructor perspectives

✓ The text covers what you want.
✓ New editions when you need them and only when you need them.
✓ Textbook will not be discontinued with little notice.
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Instructor perspectives

✓ The text covers what you want.
✓ New editions when you need them and only when you need them.
✓ Textbook will not be discontinued with little notice.
✓ Custom motivators.

Reading assignments, extra credit projects, etc…
Why custom Materials

Lecture videos: Student perspective.

- Custom videos present what the instructor wants.
- They can watch parts they did not understand over again.
- They can watch previous lectures as part of their test preparation.
- If they have to miss class they can still watch the lecture.
Why custom Materials

What Students prefer in lecture videos.
Why custom Materials

What Students prefer in lecture videos.

✓ In the first video the instructor gets in the way of the board and is distracting.
✓ In the second video it is easy to see what is being written and there is no distraction of looking at the instructor.
✓ In the second video a pdf of everything written is included.
✓ In the second video diagrams are easily added.
Why custom Materials

Custom videos: Advantages for instructors.

- Improves your E-Learning courses.
- In lecture classes can be used to provide more time for alternate teaching modalities.
- Without them if a student misses class you must either give them a private lesson or simply hope for the best.
- Custom videos present material how you want it presented.
Why custom Materials

Software, Videos and Websites

- Homework systems
  - Instant feedback
  - Multiple tries
  - Worked out solutions
- Videos – Streaming vs cd vs dvd
- Websites
  - Basic information
  - Links to other resources
  - Examples
Why custom Materials