I recently asked my Calculus III and IV classes what advice they would give to students just beginning calculus. These are the successful calculus students, and their advice is very good.

Advice to beginning Calculus students from successful Calculus III students

I don't care how effortless math was before, do your homework!

Do the homework. It helps you understand the material.

Do your homework. Take the online quizzes/tests. Derivatives are not hard.

Do the assigned problems -- that's huge. Enjoy the class.

Make doing homework fun. I sing to myself.

Download the previous quizzes and exams from the class webpage. Ask questions. Sometimes the instructor goes into more depth.

Laugh at his jokes. Oh, study too. (Teacher note: I know the jokes are bad.)

It's not hard. Just bear with it and do homework!

Don't forget algebra and trig. It all comes back with the addition of calculus.

Just be sure you are following what the instructor has covered.

Take advantage of the past tests and quizzes.

You should study for all the tests and quizzes. Do the problems & ask questions if you don't understand the material.

Do all the HW assigned and make sure you know it. Study the old tests thoroughly before a test.

Come to class and do the old quizzes and tests. Do the problems at the end of each chapter of course.

Don't panic! Take it easy and just think. Understand all pictures or graphs and the equations will come.

Even if HW isn't required do at least some. Ask for help at first sign of problems. Have fun!

This is the chance for a fresh start. Although you will be building knowledge you've gained from past math classes most of all it will be the basics. Work hard & focus because you will be able to see your fruits the very next quarter.

Remember your derivatives, they will show up again and again.

Take the calculus series without taking breaks. Do all assigned problems the day they are assigned and do more in areas that you have trouble with.

Do all homework problems. You'll need some of it in Calculus II and III.

Practice daily and you'll be fine.

Don't give up and DO ALL YOUR HOMEWORK!!

Calculus I and II are most important parts to study calculus. If you solve a lot of problems as much as you can, it will make you easy for taking next courses.

Do not be daunted by the calculus formulas. The only hard part of calculus is lengthy algebra manipulations. Work on your algebra skills.

Practice, practice, practice -- do problems! Make note cards of important formulas/concepts (don't throw them away if going to take Calculus II).

Keep up with the homework. Sin and cos actually become more important.

Advice to beginning Calculus students from successful Calculus IV students

Even though they are not assigned, do problems from the book. It'll help you a ton!

Do many problems everyday & come to class everyday.

Be creative with the math you're learning. Think of it as a set of tools to be explored rather than a set of rules to be followed. Be imaginative.

Do as many problems as necessary to really know the material. And keep up. Don't wait until test time to start homework! You will get so much more from the lectures if you are caught up.

Don't only study then night before. Skip questions that seem hard in the test and come back to them later when you have finished the others. Time is usually short. Go get help in the Math Lab and study with friends.

Do every single homework problem and also work on the old online tests.

Do NOT fall behind in homework. A few days before a test do all the homework a second time. This will help you get an A.

Do your homework everyday, and go to the Math Study Center often.

Calculus I is a very important course for next courses so just solve all problems as much as you can.

Understand thoroughly every problem you are doing not just to match the answers in the back of the book. Do not look at the answer until you are done with the whole problem.

Do the section exercises, go to class, do the online exams, review concepts before exams.

I think most calculus teachers would give the same advice, but it might have more impact coming from other students. It is good advice.