e-Grade software

Included in the price of your textbook is a registration number for you to use *e-Grade* software, an online assessment system with skill-building problems and solutions. This software is accessible from any Web access point. You are provided with immediate scoring and feedback on your work.

To use *e-Grade*:

1. Using a computer connected to the Internet, get to your *e-Grade* Class Homepage.
   (Go to the MA 153 Web Site at **http://www.ipfw.edu/math/courses/ma153** for a link.)
   Your *e-Grade* Class Homepage is the starting point for everything involving the class. From there you can start assignments and tutorials or view the results of past work.
   TIP: Bookmark this page within your browser to allow for easy access throughout the semester.

2. Once you are on the e-grade homepage for the right class, you must register with the system before doing anything else. This will require entering the product key that came shrink-wrapped with the text. ***Note:*** If you are in an open lab on campus and don't want anyone to see your SSN when your records are displayed, just use 999999999 or another bogus number for your Student ID Number. You should, however, type a valid e-mail address, so if you ever forget your password the system can mail you a new one.

3. Once you are registered, your options include
   Select an Assignment or
   View Past Results or Change Password

   To gain access to the assignments for grading or your past results, you will need to enter your User ID and password. Be sure to keep this access information private from your fellow classmates. Logging in under someone else's account is considered fraudulent behavior, and will be reported to the Dean of Students.

4. After selecting an assignment from the list, you may see a popup box which says "**You have selected an assignment that requires the Math Package."** You cannot download the Math Package on a computer in the IPFW lab, since it is refreshed each time it is rebooted. You don't need it anyway. The system default mode is Text Mode, which operates using syntax similar to a graphing calculator, combined with a Preview option, which allows you to see what your expression looks like when presented as typeset mathematics. For help at any time, click on 

Avoiding Common Math Errors

1. ***Exponents:*** Use the caret, `^`, for exponentiation, and the letter `e` for 2.718...

2. ***Parentheses:*** Like on a graphing calculator, you must use parentheses.
   When in doubt, you can use the Preview option to see it look the way it would in a math text.
   Examples:
   For $2^{x/13}$, you must type `2^(x/13)`
   not `2^x/13` . . . which would be interpreted as $\frac{2^x}{13}$
   For $y = \frac{x}{4(x-2)}$, you must type `y = x/(4(x-2))`
   not `y = x/4(x-2)` . . . which would be interpreted as $\frac{x}{4}(x-2)$

3. ***Variable Names:*** You can use any letter for a variable name, but you should always use the same letter that is used in the question. If the question asks you for `(t+1)^2` then the answer `(x+1)^2` will be graded wrong. Also, the system is case sensitive. So, if instead of typing `(t+1)^2` you enter `(T+1)^2` , your answer will be graded wrong.

4. ***Multiplication:*** You can type an asterisk (i.e. `*`) for multiplication, or just type a letter and a number together (i.e. `2x`).

5. ***Square Roots:*** The square root function is `sqrt(x)` or you can just type `x^(1/2)` or `x^0.5` instead. Note again that, like on a graphing calculator, `x^1/2` means $\frac{x^1}{2}$.

6. ***Absolute Value:*** The absolute value function is `abs(x)`, so something like $2|x+1|-3$ would be typed as `2abs(x+1)-3`.

7. ***Argument of Functions:*** You should always place the argument of a function in parentheses. For example, for $\sqrt{3x}$ you must type `sqrt(3x)`,
   not `sqrt 3x` which would be interpreted as $\sqrt{3}\cdot x$

   Note: The lower level TI calculators (85, 82, and 81) will allow you to enter `sqrt 3x` and `log x/2` without parentheses. Both ***eGrade*** and the higher level TI calculators use the standard convention and require you to put the argument of the function in parentheses in order for your answer to be correctly interpreted.

For MA 151 students:

8. ***π:*** Simply type `Pi` or `pi`. (However, not `PI`.)

9. ***Trigonometric Functions:*** The names for common mathematical functions (sin, cos, etc.) are just what you would expect. The inverse trig functions are arcsin(x), arccos(x), and arctan(x). Also, trigonometric functions are all set to work in radians.

If you are interrupted during a homework assignment or quiz, you can log back into the system and return to the assignment where you left off. Your interaction with the system is saved as you move from one question to the next.

To grade your completed assignment click on the **Grade** button. You will then see your percentage grade and the number of questions you answered correctly. This grade is immediately sent to your instructor by the system. To view your graded assignment and see any detailed feedback that is available click on the **View Feedback** button. You will then see your actual assignment with solutions and any detailed feedback provided by the publisher or instructors. **See Details** enables you to see the entire assignment.

If you have not answered any of questions in your assignment, you will be warned and have the opportunity to complete them before grading. If any of your answers include math syntax errors or other input not understood by ***eGrade***, you will also be warned and have the opportunity to fix those specific questions.

If you are working a *tutorial* assignment, you click on the **Grade** button after each individual question. Once you have graded the question you are served up the next question in the assignment. To logout of your current assignment, click on the **Exit** button.