Getting Started with Mastering (Students)

☑ **Check for instructor assignments**   From the Home page: **Assignment List** > current assignment name/number

- **Assignments may count toward your grade for the course.** When you open an assignment, you can view its grading policy. Instructors control when their course assignments are available for you to complete. The first assignment typically shows you how to answer questions in the program.

- **Check system requirements** to be sure that you are able to view and complete assignments. For example, many questions require the Adobe Flash player.

☑ **Check for available self-study resources**   See tabs lower left (Study Area, ActivPhysics OnLine, etc.)

- **Study area resources can include:** Visually-based tutorials, quizzes, an eBook, interactive applets, or other materials. (Available materials vary by textbook.) If your instructor has not given you any assignments or asked that you enroll with a Course ID, you can still access these valuable study resources.

☑ **About assignments**

- **An assignment can include:** Problems, tutorials or other activities for you to complete. A problem may contain a number of Parts (labeled A, B, etc.), each of which may contain Hints.

- **If you get stuck on the main problem in a Part:** Click Hint to view either a simpler sub-question or a contextual clue. It's usually to your advantage to answer Hints. Doing so can help you to eventually solve the main Part problem, and you can receive some credit for answering Hints, even if you never solve the main problem. (Hints are not available for all questions.)

- **If you give an incorrect answer as you work:** You may receive individual, instant coaching feedback specific to your mistake.

- **For some kinds of complex problems:** You can work them out totally online, or you may choose to print them first, work them out on paper, and then enter your answers online. Don't discard any calculations until the end of the course—you may need them later to verify your work.

- **You can log out at any time during an assignment.** Your work will be saved if you take a break and log in later to complete the assignment.

☑ **Working assignments**

- **You can no longer work on an assignment item** once you click Submit Item at the bottom. Non-assignment materials in the self-study area (lower left) allow you to keep practicing to improve your score, but this work won't count toward your grade.

- **Math Palette:** This appears in the answer box for you to use when a question requires you to enter an algebraic answer. (Requires that you have the latest version of the Adobe Flash player.)

- **Significant figures:** Use the specified number of significant figures in your answer. To prevent rounding errors, work out the problem to at least one significant figure.

- **Special functions:** Mathematical answers can include special functions. Use the Math palette to enter special functions. Enter functions in lowercase. Enter variables as upper or lowercase. All arguments and results of reverse trigonometric special functions must be in radians.

- **Number guidelines:** Don't use commas for large numbers. Never include currency symbols or units. (The unit is always provided for your answer.) Answer units may be different from question units. Some answers may need to be in alphanumeric order.

- **See the Help for info on:** Answering questions with vectors or graphs; Answering vocabulary, sorting and ranking questions.

☑ **Check your assignment scores**   Click: **My Scores**

- **When are scores calculated?** Final scores are calculated once a day, from 10:00 AM -12:00 PM (Eastern Time, US & Canada) after the assignment is DUE.

- **To prepare for final tests:** Consider reviewing your work, including feedback you may have received. (Not applicable for all question or tutorial types.) **My Scores** > *assignment title* > *assignment item* > **My Answers** > **Review Part**

- **The program uses "weighted averages" for your scores.**
  This means that any problem or assignment that is worth a greater number of points will count for more in your average. Your instructor may modify your scores when calculating your final grade (e.g., by dropping low grades). For this reason, the average the program calculates may not be the same as the unweighted average of each of your scores.

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