



Introduction to WeBWorK at WWU

What is WeBWorK?

WeBWorK is an online homework system for distributing individually customized homework assignments via any modern web browser. WeBWorK provides the following:

- Each student gets a different version of each problem.
- Assignments may be accessed at any time from any computer with a browser and internet connection.
- Students receive instantaneous feedback, and can usually attempt a problem as many times as they like without penalty.
- Answers, and sometimes complete solutions, to problems are available shortly after the due date.

What is WeBWorK Not?

WeBWorK is **not** a replacement for pencil-and-paper homework assignments. You should still use pencil-and-paper to solve your WeBWorK problems **before** sitting down at the computer to submit those problems. This allows you to build your problem solving and solution writing skills, which will be important for exams. In fact, your professor may require you to still turn in pencil-and-paper solutions for some selected homework problems so that your solution presentation skills can be evaluated and honed.

WeBWorK is also **not** a distance learning system. You must still attend classes and read your text! WeBWorK does not teach or explain, and most of the time will not give you any hints. It cannot analyze your errors to determine if they are trivial or fundamental, nor can it respond to any questions you may have.

How do I Access WeBWorK?

WeBWorK at WWU is accessed through the Moodle course management system. From any computer with an internet connection and modern web browser, complete the following steps to access your assignments.

1. Access the Moodle course management system at <https://webwork.wallawalla.edu/moodle/>.
2. Find and click on your course name.
3. Log in using your WWU username and password.
4. The first time you access your course, you will be asked for an enrollment key.

The key for this course is: _____.

5. Within your course you will find links to WeBWorK assignments with the WeBWorK () icon.

How Should I Use WeBWorK?

To successfully use WeBWorK as a learning tool, follow these steps.

1. Attend class and read the relevant sections of your text.
2. Log into Moodle and print out your version of the WeBWorK assignment.
3. Work out solutions to those problems on paper, starting with the easiest (for you) problems first.
4. Log back onto Moodle and enter your answers into WeBWorK. If the computer says one or more of your answers are incorrect, then:
 - (a) Check for any errors in input. Use the **Preview** button to make sure that you and the computer agree as to what you are trying to enter.
 - (b) Carefully go over your written solutions looking for mistakes.

- (c) Talk the problem over with fellow students in the class.
- (d) Work similar odd-numbered exercises from your text that have the answers in back.
- (e) Go to the TLC for help. Be sure to take your version of the WeBWorK assignment with you!
- (f) Go to your professor's office during office hours for help.

At each of these steps, if you believe you have found your mistake, rework the problem and go back to WeBWorK to try your new answer. **Do not put off working on your assignment until the night it is due.** This will lead to a lot of stress and frustration.

What if I'm Sure I'm Right, but WeBWorK says I'm Wrong?

You may be using the wrong syntax and WeBWorK is misunderstanding what you are trying to write. Again, use the **Preview** button to see how WeBWorK is interpreting your answer. If you still believe you are right, use the **Email** or **Post** button to email your professor a message describing your question. It is also helpful to describe what you have done to get your answer.

Each WeBWorK problem is a small computer program. As with any program, there can be bugs. However, these problems have been used many times in classes both at WWU and at other universities. Most students who think WeBWorK is refusing a correct answer are actually making an algebra error or other mistake in their solution. Be sure that you have checked your solution thoroughly before claiming that WeBWorK is incorrect!