

# QUALITIES OF A GOOD TUTOR

- ❁ Good Listener - Learn to listen perceptively to what the student is really saying. Often students will give you clues about the “roadblocks” to their learning: information deficit background, hidden misconceptions, math anxiety, etc.
- ❁ Responsive - Your actions and words should communicate to the student that you understand his learning needs, that you do not judge him/her from a “superior” vantage point, and that you are genuinely concerned about his academic needs. Recognize and show appreciation for the student’s strong points and accomplishments.
- ❁ Patience and Flexibility - Approach the material in small, manageable units to allow the student to learn each concept and skill. Be prepared to present the material in several different ways.
- ❁ Trustworthy and Professional - Maintain a professional attitude towards the students. Keep confidential any personal or academic information about the student. Never relate to any student your personal opinions of various courses or instructors.
- ❁ Humility - Help for the right reason. Not because you are a superior math student (no ego trips!), but because the tutee is your fellow student and you want to see him succeed. Don’t hesitate to ask for feedback or assistance from faculty, the tutoring coordinator, the math specialist, and the supervising tutor or other tutors. You are not expected to be all-knowing. Demonstrating that everyone can benefit from help will reinforce the student’s belief in tutoring.
- ❁ Realistic - Don’t expect miracles. Don’t hold it against a student if, after all your help, he still fails the course. Don’t hold it against yourself, either. Your best effort, and the student’s is the most you can expect.

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Tutors**

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