Frequently Asked Questions about R.E.A.L. Math

What is a R.E.A.L. class?
R.E.A.L. stands for Real-world Explorations, Active Learning. Students explore real-world situations with which they are already familiar while learning the math needed to solve problems. For example, negative numbers are introduced in terms of managing a checking account balance. Equivalent fractions are introduced using sandwiches. Students learn how math is used in their own lives.

How does a R.E.A.L. course operate?
In class, students work in groups to explore the problems presented in the workbook as the teacher assists. Students are asked to discuss and share their ideas with the class. Homework consists of a short online assignment and a more in depth workbook assignment.

Students take online quizzes approximately every two weeks. Exams are paper-and-pencil and are taken in a testing center (NOT the Hub). Unlike in other course formats, students may not retake any of their exams.

What kind of student does well in a R.E.A.L. class?
Students who prefer face-to-face instruction, learning in a social environment, and doing pencil-and-paper work do well in R.E.A.L. courses. This course is a very good choice for students who have typically struggled to learn math.

Is there an online component in a R.E.A.L. class?
Yes. A small amount of homework and eight quizzes are done online. Course tests are paper-and-pencil and are not done on a computer.

What else should I know about R.E.A.L. courses?
Group work is heavily emphasized in R.E.A.L. courses. Excellent attendance is necessary to ensure groups function properly. Students must attend a minimum of 75% of class sessions. A UW grade is earned by students who do not maintain at least 75% attendance.

R.E.A.L. courses are not a good option for students who want to work at their own pace. Students in this course format do not have the option to work ahead.