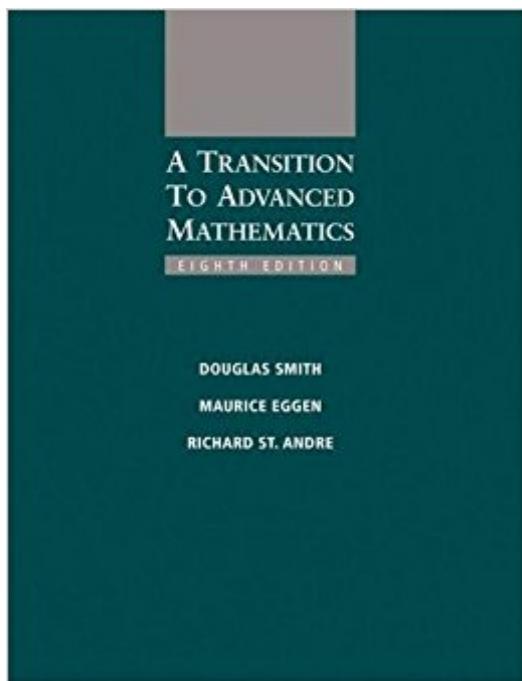


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# A Transition To Advanced Mathematics



## **Synopsis**

A TRANSITION TO ADVANCED MATHEMATICS helps students to bridge the gap between calculus and advanced math courses. The most successful text of its kind, the 8th edition continues to provide a firm foundation in major concepts needed for continued study and guides students to think and express themselves mathematically--to analyze a situation, extract pertinent facts, and draw appropriate conclusions. The authors present introductions to modern algebra and analysis and place continuous emphasis throughout on improving students' ability to read and write proofs, and on developing their critical awareness for spotting common errors in proofs. Concepts are clearly explained and supported with detailed examples, while abundant and diverse exercises provide thorough practice on both routine and more challenging problems. Students will come away with a solid intuition for the types of mathematical reasoning they'll need to apply in later courses and a better understanding of how mathematicians of all kinds approach and solve problems.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The authors are the leaders in this course area. They decided to write this text based upon a successful transition course that Richard St. Andre developed at Central Michigan University in the early 1980s. This was the first text on the market for a transition to advanced mathematics course and it has remained at the top as the leading text in the market. Douglas Smith is Professor of Mathematics at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Dr. Smith's fields of interest include Combinatorics / Design Theory (Team Tournaments, Latin Squares, and applications), Mathematical Logic, Set Theory, and Collegiate Mathematics Education. Maurice Eggen is Professor

of Computer Science at Trinity University. Dr. Eggen's research areas include Parallel and Distributed Processing, Numerical Methods, Algorithm Design, and Functional Programming. Richard St. Andre is Associate Dean of the College of Science and Technology at Central Michigan University. Dr. St. Andre's teaching interests are quite diverse with a particular interest in lower division service courses in both mathematics and computer science.

I rented this book for my MATH 251 Discrete course at UNLV. This book wasn't an easy read as it was very formal, but I got the hang of it after a while. I wish the authors would have provided more details (even if trivial) in the proofs and provided more of them. The book strove toward compactness. Fortunately I've seen proofs before, so I was able to "muscle" through the text. This book is titled "A Transition to Advanced Mathematics" but it doesn't make the transition easy.

Three stars seems a bit low, but four definitely would be too high for this book. There seem to be a lot of reviews here of the fifth and sixth editions; I can't speak to them because my copy is the seventh edition. (It would seem to me that reviews for the various edition should be separate, since problems with one might not be in another, but, in their infinite wisdom, considers all editions to be the same book and lumps all the reviews in together.) On the good side, this book seems to have a good variety of exercises to work, from easy to extremely challenging; unlike some reviewers, I consider this a feature, not a bug. And if there aren't solutions to all (or even half) of the problems, it is a fair defense to point out that in a book of this sort, there may be many possible solutions to the same problem, and it would be doing students a disservice to provide "the" solution. Still, I'll agree with the reviewers who complain that the "the second half of this proof is left as an exercise for the student" copout is the lazy author's way out. The real problem with this book, however, is that even more so than most math textbooks (which is saying something) the explanations are impenetrable for someone who isn't already fluent in the language of math. I was fortunate enough to have a good prof, who was able to explain concepts clearly and with a translation to standard english; as such, concepts that were impenetrable when I read them prior to class made perfect sense by the time class was finished. But not everyone is so fortunate; the value of a math textbook is that if the student doesn't understand something in the lecture, he/she can supplement the lecture with the textbook. My suspicion is that anyone trying to do that with this book would be left at least as baffled as they were before reading it. And no, it doesn't help that it's outrageously overpriced.

I had to use this book for my proofs course in college. Since this is an introductory proof course, they

should have done a more thorough job of explaining concepts and guiding the student. What I mean by that is, they'll introduce a theorem, but won't prove it. Instead, the proof will be left as a exercise for the student. Then another problem will reference that answer, but there is no answer in the back of the book! I utilized my professor's office hours which gave me more detailed explanations and guidance. I would advise that for anyone who is required to use this book for their class. With regard to the solutions, not even all of the odd numbered solutions are given in the back, and again, I had to consult others to verify my answers. Concepts seemed solid for the most part, but more work is necessary for the next edition.

This book is great to transition into advanced mathematics. I am currently taking introduction to Mathematical Proofs and this book is really good. I haven't had the need to really check any other resources. It is just important that you dedicate the time to work the problems and understand what is happening. The definition boxes are incredibly helpful!

This edition is just the 7th edition with some stuff shifted around so you can't use the previous version to do homework. It is extremely overpriced. \$60 for a book I have to return in 2 months and over \$200 new. It came filled with writing and highlighting everywhere that I don't want to see.

I used this book for the class foundations of mathematics which was the last required class for my math minor. This was by far the most enjoyable math class I took. The subject matter is grounded in developing proofs using logic. Domain, range, real numbers etc. This is a good book for anyone interested in advanced mathematics that doesn't involve cal 3 or 4.

Need book for school, not entertainment

It's a great book. If you need it for a class I recommend it. But it's takes way too long to arrive. That's why I'm giving it a 2.

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