Mindset for College Math

In college, you will need to understand the concepts behind the formulas if you want to do well. If you struggle, don’t doubt your ability. Instead, practice, practice, practice . . .

Where to start:

✓ Take math classes back-to-back without skipping.
   Review previous courses before taking new ones.

✓ Never fall behind.
   Go to class early every day.
   Again, make a habit of reviewing and practicing exercises and materials.

✓ Complete computations as you study the book.
   Work section by section, and through each example.

✓ Keep accurate, detailed lecture notes.
   Pay attention to what the professor writes down.
   Use color-coding in order to organize specifics.

✓ Understand the concepts behind the formulas.
   Again, look at each particular process and try to understand the purposes behind those processes.

   Once you learn the concept, “TEACH IT” to someone, anyone . . .

   Remember: Teaching can deepen your own understanding of a concept.

✓ When in doubt . . .
   See your instructor.
   - Or -
   Visit the Academic Success Center.

Adapted from University of Illinois at Chicago, Academic Center for Excellence.