**A Big SI Welcome

Hi Learners –

Click** [**here**](http://www.csci-snc.com/mat2051/index.html) **to go to the SI Webpage**
**Click** [**here**](https://strategiced.zoom.us/j/94418450721) **to go to the SI Zoom session**
My name is Bary W Pollack, but please call me Bary. I am your host for your study group. Our first study group session is already scheduled: 7:30 PM CT on Wednesday, January 8th please join me for an introduction to Capella’s Supplemental Instruction (SI) study group tailored for MAT2051 Discrete Mathematics. I will explain what SI is, how it can save you time, decrease frustration, and enhance your understanding in Discrete Mathematics.

**This course material is dense and is known to be difficult.** The SI sessions help learners improve understanding, maintain focus, and achieve better grades. We will share study techniques, discuss the intricacies of the textbook, define a weekly road map for success, and break down the homework into manageable pieces. Each week we will meet twice for 1.5 hours each session. **Each session is different** and covers different topics. This is how each week’s study group is structured:

**HeadStart Sessions**As a group, we focus on the textbook studies. This includes asking and answering textbook specific information that may cause confusion or frustration. This textbook is not the easiest to read. Some side effects from reading the textbook include nausea, headaches, frustration, and extreme drowsiness. In some cases, extreme rage, and the desire to deface or even incinerate the book have been reported. In this session, we will attempt to alleviate these symptoms, and ensure we stay focused and maintain an adequate scholarly attitude towards the book and the author.

**Workout Sessions**Our second weekly study group meeting gets right down to solving problems. One of the best ways to learn difficult topics is to see how the solutions work, and practice solving the problem sets. What could eliminate frustration more than working through some of your required course discussion problems as a group? This is definitely not a meeting to miss! It is true that this course does have quizzes and a comprehensive final exam. You will encounter quizzes every other week, and we have just the remedy for edging out testing anxiety. We hold practice quizzes on “quiz weeks” to ensure you know what to expect for your upcoming quiz. On those weeks we don’t have quizzes, we finish up any uncovered content and allow an open Q&A time for the remainder of the session.

You may post questions in response to this thread concerning the study group. **Anything posted in the SI discussions of your courseroom is not part of your grade**. I check the courseroom daily and enjoy answering your questions quickly.

**A little about your host…**Again, my name is Bary W Pollack, “Bary” *is preferred unless you absolutely must be proper*, and I have been teaching here at Capella since 2008. I have a Bachelor’s in Mathematics from M.I.T. and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Computer Science from Stanford University. In addition to solving the problems, I will share my step-by-step method of breaking down the topics, and **help you navigate the immense workload this course demands**. My highest priority with the study group is to save you time and frustration. **I understand how precious your time is, and I present the study group accordingly with you in mind.

This first week is no picnic!** So, clear out a little time in your schedule and come prepared to enjoy the weekly shows. (Bring your sense of humor… you’ll need it for some of this material!)

**Bary W Pollack, PhD**Supplemental Instruction Leader
MAT2051 Discrete Mathematics