

-FALL 2008-

TUTORING SERVICES

TIPS FROM TUTORS ...

to tackle those tests!

- ✓ Relax!! Stressing out about the test will only hurt your chances of doing well.
- ✓ Talk with other student in the class as they can help you understand concepts by putting it in a way you might not have thought of.
- ✓ Don't forget to sleep. Taking a test while trying to stay awake because you stayed up all night cramming is never a good idea. – Andrew Teale

- ✓ Don't wait until the last minute to soak in material. Going over it every day will help you understand it better.

- ✓ Explaining the material out loud will help you understand it better and makes you realize what you need to focus on more.

- ✓ Don't be afraid to meet with your instructors during office hours to ask questions.

- ✓ Schedule time to study regularly.

- ✓ Study in a distraction free environment.

- ✓ Attend study group sessions affiliated with the course. The leader will most likely offer study tips and practice exams. Giving you the option to go to the board to practice problems and to have the benefit of being corrected to learn the proper way of doing things is invaluable. –Kait Kavalkovich

- ✓ It has been my personal experience that in order to succeed in college you do not have to be smart like Einstein or Hawkins. You just have to put the time into it. 1 to 2 hours of homework/reading for every 1 hour of class and success is attained.
- ✓ It is easy to get burned out at school, but try to at least do something fun each day that is also challenging.
- ✓ If you are not passionate about your area of study, your prospects for success do not look good.

- ✓ When studying, turn off the laptop, TV, and cell phone. It is important to give the subject matter the intellectual respect it deserves.
- ✓ Sleep deprivation has been proven to hurt academic performance. The all-nighter is not your friend.
- ✓ Schedule study time and stick to it.
- ✓ Don't cram! Even if you pass the exam you won't retain the knowledge.
- ✓ If you are having trouble figuring out what to review, start with an outline of the course and work your way to more specific topics.
- ✓ I've always had the best results when I set aside several short periods each day for study and I look at info from only one class (subject) during each period. When I try to set aside longer periods, I don't recall as much as when I limit to 20 – 30 minutes at a time.
- ✓ Learn not just how to perform a problem so that it works, but dig deeper and find out just why it works. This way if you forget the procedure, you can derive it from the reason it worked.
- ✓ Create a written outline of material to be tested. After the outline is completed, fill in the specific details. This allows the individual to see how the concepts are related and gives a big picture of the material. Writing down specific details, the individual is more apt to remember.
- ✓ If you feel tired, go to sleep and wake up a little earlier than you had planned so you can remember more of what you are studying.
- ✓ Use book companion websites.
- ✓ Start early so you're not overwhelmed or rushed.
- ✓ Meet with the professor for tips directly related to the course.
- ✓ Attend study groups if available.
- ✓ Break up the material and learn the little sections.
- ✓ Spend 10 or 15 minutes after lecture to review the material so that your first exposure is not a few days before the test.
- ✓ Start studying at least a week in advance...seriously!

- ✓ Figure out what environments YOU study best in. In a favorite spot or while listening to a song.
- ✓ Write down ideas while studying-study actively! – Sasha Teymorian

- ✓ Color code your notes!
- ✓ I study with a particular music repeatedly so that while I'm taking the test I can close my eyes, remember the music and lots of times the answer will pop back into my head! – Holly James

- ✓ Start to prepare early! Begin reviewing your notes and re-reading the chapters in the book at least 1 week before the test.

- ✓ Do additional problems in the book that were not assigned. Sometimes professors will use these problems as a guide for their tests.

- ✓ Use flash cards or play games that will help you learn the material.

- ✓ Try teaching what you have learned to someone else as this can help the info stick in your mind.

- ✓ Take frequent breaks and eat healthy and get plenty of sleep.

- ✓ Find friends who will help you study not distract you.

- ✓ Take tests in the same mindset and condition you were in when you studied.

- ✓ If you don't use it you'll lose it so practice review

- ✓ Give yourself your own projects to makes things more personal.

- ✓ Repeat "I can do this".

- ✓ Read more slowly.

- ✓ I like reading over my notes and piecing them together like a puzzle. It is easier to remember the big picture as well as the things that make it up.

- ✓ Do the review questions professors send you.
- ✓ Talk to professors if you have questions or don't understand things. – Lori C.

- ✓ I know I completely understand a concept when I can explain it to someone else! Try pairing with a classmate and explaining it to each other. You will hear the lesson/idea more times and better absorb the info.
- ✓ Don't go for a long period of time without looking at your notes. It's amazing how fast we replace things in short term memory. –Ellen Cook

TIPS FOR STUDYING FOR SPECIFIC SUBJECT AREAS:

- For **Math** problem based classes I like looking over practice problems. Again asking why I'm doing these steps and how they are used to form the answer.
- For **Chem 108**-use the text book and do most of the questions after every chapter. Try not to miss class. Ask questions or get clarification. Study a lot on your own without necessarily relying on the professor at first. Attend group study sessions and attend individual tutoring.
- For **Bio 202**-use the website provided in the book. Understand the concept without cramming the material. The extensive material covered in this course should have you studying on your own most of the time, and then attend tutoring to ask questions in addition.
- For **Chemistry & Math** problems-practicing problems suggested by professor or back of book. This allows you to study problems that may be formatted differently. Practice makes perfect! Don't procrastinate. Study little by little maybe a week or two before the exam. –Brittany Brodziski
- For **Organic Chemistry II** create study guides for each exam, so when the final comes you have a comprehensive study guide to prepare for the final. Review all of the Organic I reactions before taking the Organic II exam. –Alex Stulo
- For **Chem** courses- don't wait until the end to review. Review all semester long. Review the calculations that happened early in the semester.
- For **Psych** courses- type up a study sheet for every exam and then for the final you can review all the other sheets which will be helpful.
- For **Comp Sci** courses- don't be afraid to use the debugger. It takes time, but really reveals the internal workings of the program. In the long run, it will often save time as randomly changing things can simply lead to frustration.
- For **Human Bio** courses- break down the materials by making note cards and knowing the terms, once you know the terms, you are able to understand the concepts. –Sunny Lor
- For **Chemistry** courses- do the problems that are given by the professor. This will make you be familiar with the exam problems.
- For **Language** courses- keep up with comprehension skills by exposing yourself to the language outside of class. Your textbook should be one of many resources! Try listening to music in the language and following along with the lyrics. Eventually you can sing along which will help with accurate pronunciation. –Ellen Cook