

12 Tips for Effective Studying

- 1. Take classroom notes and review notes regularly.**
 - ✓ Explore using alternative note-taking systems (e.g. Cornell Note-taking).
 - ✓ Review notes after each class period, and regularly during the week.
- 2. Look for main ideas, and try to link them together.**
 - ✓ Attempt to identify major themes in the reading and lectures.
 - ✓ Get a thorough understanding of the major themes to help with details.
- 3. Learn what criteria will be used to grade tests or assignments.**
 - ✓ Meet with your professor to find determine how material may be presented.
 - ✓ Ask if you can look at old test examples to aid in your preparation.
- 4. Try to predict test questions based on previous reading and/or classroom discussion.**
 - ✓ Listen carefully in class for the professor's emphasis on certain topics.
 - ✓ Attempt to draw out the significant material from reading assignments.
- 5. Utilize flash cards and highlighters to present and display material in alternative ways.**
 - ✓ Use different colors to highlight vague and ambiguous material.
 - ✓ Highlight sparingly to give more emphasis to what is highlighted.
- 6. Practice answering predicted test questions.**
 - ✓ Utilize old tests and assignments to help here.
 - ✓ Try to answer questions at the end of textbook chapters.
- 7. Determine which courses require the most time and effort.**
 - ✓ Begin with the most labor-intensive material first.
 - ✓ Make an outline of what specific tasks you want to achieve in a given time frame.
- 8. Sketch out a calendar for exam preparation.**
 - ✓ Don't wait until the last minute to begin.
 - ✓ Break large assignments into smaller pieces.
- 9. Allocate specific study time for each day.**
 - ✓ Try to study at the same time each day.
 - ✓ Meet with other students if you feel this would be beneficial.
- 10. Meet with your instructor to determine the most effective way of engaging and retaining course information.**
 - ✓ Take your syllabus and notes when meeting with professors.
 - ✓ Have well-formed questions to assist you in studying.
- 11. Choose a quiet place with low traffic to minimize distractions.**
 - ✓ Wear ear plugs while studying to help with concentration.
 - ✓ Take regular breaks (e.g. 45/10).
- 12. Keep study materials organized and close by.**
 - ✓ Maintain clear, organized, coherent notes.
 - ✓ Review notes at odd times- studies show this enhances retention.