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.