

Active Learning

Learning isn't something that just happens to you, you have to *make* it happen. Active learning involves being a part of the learning process, so that you can retain the information you're supposed to be learning.

To become an active learner, follow these steps:

- ✓ Pre-read the lecture material beforehand. Even a quick scan will familiarize you with the day's topic and will make it easier to follow along.
- ✓ Always attend class.
- ✓ Focus your attention on the lecture.
- ✓ Take real notes.
- ✓ Keep up with the reading.
- ✓ Review your notes nightly.
- ✓ Get to know your professor.
- ✓ Know when tests are coming and assignments are due.
- ✓ Remember that the night before is never enough time to study for a test or to complete an assignment.
- ✓ Faithfully use a calendar or day planner.
- ✓ Think of the class in sections, instead of as one scary whole.



You can do this if you choose to – no one can make you learn and no one owes it to you, you owe it to yourself. **WORK HARD!** College isn't easy, but the rewards are great.

Study in Groups

It can be boring to study alone and it's easy to lose your motivation for studying when you're by yourself. Being in a study group "forces" you to study when you're supposed to instead of finding something else to do.

To begin a study group, follow these steps:

- ✓ Make an announcement that you're starting a study group – aim for 4 - 8 people.
- ✓ Meet somewhere quiet and comfortable.
- ✓ Have everyone bring notes, books, and any other useful materials.
- ✓ Set an agenda and a specific time frame. Choose a time keeper to keep things on task.

For Example:

1. *Review notes taken in class*
2. *Review chapters read*
3. *Go over specific questions and/or problems.*
4. *Come up with questions and quiz each other*

- ✓ Choose someone to keep some kind of group notes for each study session.
- ✓ Allow everyone to speak and talk through difficult concepts.
(If you can explain a topic to someone, you know it!)



Keep in mind that forming a successful study group takes time and effort, and don't give up! You will get as much out of your group as you put in, and group studying is definitely worth the effort.