Studying to Succeed on Tests

Getting ready for a test begins long before the actual test date. As you listen in class, take notes, and study at home, you are preparing to succeed on tests and projects. Use these tips to help you do your best.

✔ Develop effective note-taking skills. Taking notes during lectures, class discussions, and as your read your textbook will help you engage with what you are learning. Those notes can also be used to create your own study guide, or for reviewing material before a test.

✔ Save quizzes and tests that you take. Make sure the corrected answers are shown. Use these to prepare for a major test or exam.

✔ Study in 30 minute intervals for a week before the test.

✔ Create a study guide several days before the scheduled test. Use note cards, create a Foldable, or use notebook paper. Divide the material into easy-to-remember categories.

✔ Be sure to include facts and details in your study guide. Also include information about the material is important, or about cause-and-effect relationships in what you are studying. Consider sketching out your own time line(s) in order to remember key dates and events.

✔ Learn the meanings of certain words—such as evaluate, enumerate, and illustrate—that appear in many exam questions.

✔ Practice all the types of questions you will encounter on the test. Typically, tests are some combination of multiple choice, short response, and extended response questions.

✔ Right before the test:
  • Get at least eight hours of sleep each night for a week leading up to the test.
  • Eat a nutritious breakfast the morning of the test.
  • Have plenty of sharpened pencils and erasers available.
  • Complete a few easy, warm-up questions the morning of the test. This will help you get into a test-taking mindset.