Study Strategies for Before, During, and After Class

Study Cycle

1 Before Class

- Use your syllabus to identify sections to be covered in the next class/lecture.
- Take 10-15 minutes to look over chapter headings, keywords, & chapter summary.
- Formulate questions you want to ask and answer during class.

2 In Class

- Use an effective note taking system.
- Listen to find answers to your questions.
- Include what the professor says in addition to what's on slides/board.
- Leave space in your notes to add material later.

3 After Class

- **Review:** Read notes and text material to fill in gaps.
- **Synthesize:** Summarize your learning in a few sentences.
- **Question:** Clarify questions using resources such as instructor, TA, text, peers, tutor, etc.
- **Connect:** Link new information with previous learning.

4 Study

- **Develop** concept-maps, charts, tables, or diagrams.
- **Practice** problems without looking at the steps in your text or notes.
- **Explain** ideas aloud.
- **Challenge** yourself to apply knowledge to problem-solving, or real-world situations.

5 Test

- Arrive early to minimize anxiety.
- Get an overview before you begin.
- Read directions carefully.
- Keep track of your time.
- Practice relaxation & positive self-talk.

Analyze returned tests and learn from the results. What worked well and what didn't?

Importance of preparing for your lecture?

(before class)

Students seem to direct the majority of their energy to learning the material after class, which causes an unnecessary cycle of complication. Their time in class is spent attempting to keep up with the material by taking notes word for word. This scramble to gather information can cause some students to give up and simply check out for the remainder of the lecture. By the time class is over, all that remains for the notetakers are pages filled with new, intimidating words and inapplicable concepts.

To break this destructive study cycle, students must recognize the importance of being prepared for lecture. A short amount of time spent previewing the day's material prior to class can save hours of ineffective study later.

General steps for lecture preparation

STEP 1

Review what has been covered in previous lectures

It is very important to review notes, readings, and handouts from the last class before heading into the next one.

STEP 2

Make sure that you have completed all homework assignments to the best of your ability

Most homework assignments review material presented in previous classes, as well as prepare students for upcoming material. These assignments are designed to help you succeed with the information on your own.

STEP 3

Pre-Lecture preparation

Within 24 hours before lecture, it's imperative to preview the material to be covered that is mentioned in the course syllabus . This step rarely takes longer than 30 minutes, especially once you're familiar with how to properly preview information.

General steps for pre-lecture preparation

Read the title and chapter objectives (must be mentioned in your course syllabus). Skipping the title and chapter objectives can be detrimental. It's virtually impossible to process information when you have no overarching framework to apply it to.

Read the chapter summary. The summary combined with the information on the title page can act as a movie preview, building excitement and providing a bit of familiarity with the concepts.

Skim the chapter by reading subheadings and viewing the content under those subheadings.

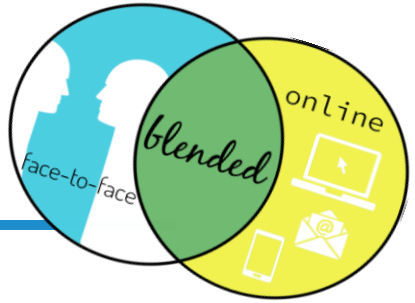
Acknowledge vocabulary that you're unfamiliar with so that you're not intimidated when you hear the same term(s) again in lecture.

Assess your understanding. As part of your preparation for class, try to assess your understanding of course material. Are there questions you have about the material? Things you're still confused about?

Formulate your questions and comments. If you're going into a class where you can participate actively, try to have your questions or comments ready ahead of time. You may not be able to ask all your questions or contribute with the comments you bring, but you're more likely to engage actively if you come prepared with these things.

A list of recommended books and references will be provided by the course instructor (mostly mentioned in the course syllabus), from which the student can find any needed information and be well prepared for their exams.

Learning Models



Steps for lecture preparation vary depending on whether the course is face-to-face, blended, or online.

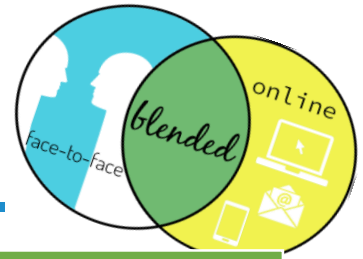
Learning Models

- **Face to face**
- **Blended (Hybrid Model)**
- **Online**

Blended learning is an approach to learning that combines face-to-face and online learning experiences.

When having face-to-face learning model, general lecture preparation steps can be applied to achieve the learning objectives perfectly.

Learning Models



Blended learning

- **Method of teaching** that integrates technology and digital media with traditional instructor-led classroom activities, giving students more flexibility to customize their learning experiences.
- It is **not a completely** online course or a lecture course that is broadcast online.
- **In blended learning**, the in-person and online elements work together to create a richer learning experience and do not simply duplicate course content in varying formats.
- For many educators, **video** is the primary delivery vehicle for blended learning content.

Recording short video lectures that typically include a screen recording of slides, a webcam recording of the teacher, a video of a demonstration or a combination of the three.

Videos recorded by the instructors to be used as supplemental course material .

Tutorials to introduce students to software or equipment that will be used in subsequent classes.

In the case of having blended learning model, students must :

1-Apply the general lecture preparation steps.

2- Watch and study any provided videos and recorded lectures .

3-Solve any given assignments based on the material covered online.

Prior to the lecture.

Learning Models

Online learning

It is **form of education** in which the main elements include **physical separation** of teachers and students during instruction and the use of various technologies to facilitate **student-teacher** and **student-student communication**.

All activities, tasks, tests, content, resources, submissions, feedback, communication, etc. are made available and dealt with **online**.

When using a Online learning model, students must :

1. **Apply the general lecture preparation steps.**
2. **Watch and study any provided videos and recorded lectures .**
3. **Solve any given assignments based on the material covered online.**
4. **Ensure the Internet is Reliable.**
5. **Get familiar with the online learning tools.**

Prior to the Online lecture.

During lecture ?

It is imperative that you are on time to class. Besides showing disrespect to the instructor and your fellow classmates, being late to class means that you may miss important announcements or presented material at the beginning of class.

Write down any questions you may have so that you do not forget to ask them.

Pick a seat free from distractions, including moving away from peers who may distract you.

When you are taking notes, do not try to write down everything that the professor is saying. Instead, listen for the most important information.

Make sure that you can see the blackboard, the projection screen, and any other visual aids (maps, charts, etc.) that the teacher will be using, and that the teacher can see you so that it is easier to participate and ask questions.

Post-Lecture Review

Within 24 hours of the lecture, it's important to solidify the information that you took in. This is the most time-consuming step within the process, but it becomes easier by consistently following the steps below.

1. Take what you prepared before lecture and compare it to what was discussed in class.

2. Read over your notes and make sure they're clear and complete. Add anything that you might have missed; re-write parts that are illegible or unclear. A great idea is to compare your notes with a classmate's. You can help each other remember the lecture and you will both end up with better notes as a result.

3. Utilize your resources (textbook, lecture slides, teaching assistant, tutor, supplemental instruction, recorded videos or lectures , etc.) to fill in any gaps that remain from lecture. Do not ignore information you don't understand—it is not going away.

4. Create a study tool from the lecture material. Examples would be creating flashcard questions from your notes (make sure they're applicable questions, not word/definition) or pulling together a self-test from the end-of-chapter questions.

Best of luck