

Preparing for Exams

- Be sure you know when your exam is, where it will be held, how much it is worth, what type of exam it will be, and what it will cover. *If you don't know, ask your professor!
- Create a study checklist for the exam – write out the topics/concepts/types of problems to be covered on the exam
- Prioritize your checklist. Note what's been emphasized in class, what you've seen over and over in homework, and any other really important concepts. Also make a note of the concepts/problems that you'll need to spend a lot of time on.
- Use a study schedule for the week, and based on the above info, create a daily study plan. Start your study plan about five days before your exam (the earlier the better!). Plan to do a little bit each day and plan to start with the material that is most important and most challenging
- Work through each of the topics/concepts on your study checklist, setting specific study goals for each study session and accomplishing those study goals; remember to avoid marathon study sessions, study in short blocks of time and take frequent short study breaks.
- Study efficiently and effectively and be disciplined! Study when you sit down to study and eliminate all distractions. Stick to your study plan.
- Choose a study strategy that forces you to test your knowledge – take practice tests, do homework problems/sample problems, quiz yourself using flashcards, etc. After you've studied a topic, close your book and notes and explain it to someone else.
- Attend all scheduled review sessions for your classes, prepare questions for your TA's and tutors, and meet with your professor before the exam to be sure you're on track
- Form study groups – quiz each other, make up practice exams, take turns teaching a concept, etc....
- Stay healthy, eat well, and get sleep. Avoid all-nighters! This will help you to relax and stay focused.