

Study Groups

Benefits of Study Groups

- Material is better understood and retained
- Students can confirm with each other any confusing or complex subject material
- Fellow students can be a source of support and encouragement
- Opportunity to teach, not just be recipient of someone else's knowledge
- Increase in confidence in academic capability
- Opportunity to learn new study habits from peers
- Learning becomes more personally relevant and intellectually stimulating

Getting Started

- Ask motivated students to join your group
- Set an optimal group size of about three or four people
- Establish the group's goals and set some important ground rules (see below)
- Create a regular schedule of meetings and assignments
- Select an ideal, distraction-free location
- Be sure everyone prepares for the group and is willing to participate
- Evaluate the group periodically to be sure it is on task and meeting its goals

Some ground rules for study group sessions...

- Be on time and prepared
- Be respectful of others' ideas
- Have homework, study guides, sample test questions, etc. completed before session
- Have questions about material ready to discuss
- Bring class notes and textbooks to study sessions

Things to do at group sessions...

- Establish goals and what you hope to accomplish by joining a study group
- Review lecture notes together; discuss anything you did not understand
- Discuss key concepts from lectures and textbook
- Discuss what questions you expect to be on tests and exams
- Review past exams if the professor has made them available
- Work on assignments
- Do practice problems
- Study for tests or exams

