Concentration Tips

● Work at a time of day when you are alert.

● Make sure you have everything that you need before you begin working.

● If something has you worried or anxious, write it down on a piece of paper before you study. Put your “worry list” aside, but add it to any nagging thoughts that distract you while you are studying.

● Study in an area that does not have external distractions. This includes noise, poor lighting, TV, interruptions from friends, etc. Find a study space that suits you.

● Work with another person nearby (someone whose work habits you admire and who will not distract you) to encourage yourself to concentrate more fully.

● Set goals for every study session that are specific and realistic (number of problems to solve, pages to read, etc.) Before you can focus on accomplishing a task, you must know what it is.

● Break-up the content of study by alternating between subjects and by incorporating a variety of interesting topics.

● Make studying an active process. Engaging in a variety of different types of studying (such as reading, writing, taking notes, memorizing, making review sheets, making note cards, creating outlines, etc.) can help keep you interested and on task.

● Recognize how what you are studying is relevant to your life -- give it meaning. Draw connections between new information and things you already know.

● Be sure to get enough sleep, eat well, and exercise regularly. Your mind will be more alert and you will be less likely to fall asleep or daydream.

● Stop studying when you feel your mind starts to wander. Take a quick break, try to relax and refocus yourself.