STUDY SKILLS PRINCIPLES IN A NUTSHELL: THE PATH TO SUCCESS

BEGINNING OF COURSE:
Check it out thoroughly

SYLLABUS, CUES TO LEARN: prof’s expectations/how am I assessed/where are my resources? [prof, TA, other students, OAE, Mathematical Sciences Learning Laboratory, Writing Center…]. SET GOALS FOR MYSELF FOR THIS COURSE.

BEFORE EACH CLASS:
Get prepared

READ TEXT, ETC. (AT LEAST SKIM); HAVE QUESTIONS READY (WHY & HOW, MORE THAN WHAT)
READIER EALIER MATERIAL: GET A SENSE OF CONTEXT FOR THE MATERIAL COMING UP

DURING EACH CLASS:
Participate wholeheartedly

SIT CLOSE, BE ALERT: ACTIVE LISTENING IS KEY. TURN TECH OFF (IF TAKING NOTES ON LAPTOP, KEEP OTHER PROGRAMS CLOSED)
ASK CLARIFYING QUESTIONS, ANSWER PROF’S QUESTIONS; KEEP YOUR ATTENTION ON ABSORBING AND THINKING ABOUT THE INFORMATION BEING SHARED—REFRAIN FROM MULTITASKING!
TAKE NOTES IN OWN WORDS: PROCESS AS WRITING IT DOWN, NOTE RELATIONSHIPS WHEN CAN…

AFTER EACH CLASS:
Process and refine

ASAP REVIEW AND REFINE NOTES, USING INFO FROM TEXT, CLASSMATE, PROF/TA FOR CLEAN-UP
CREATE STUDY MATERIALS (CORNELL A GOOD FRAMEWORK)
OUTLINE HIGHLIGHTS: KEY TERMS/DEFINITIONS/RULES; KEY CONCEPTS
INTEGRATE WITH TEXT, OTHER MATERIALS (HANDOUTS, READINGS, ONLINE RESOURCES…)

ONGOING:
Integrate and practice

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF CONCEPTS
CREATE POSSIBLE TEST QUESTIONS (WHY & HOW VS. WHAT)
INTEGRATE WITH EARLIER MATERIAL: HOW DO THE PIECES FIT, HOW DOES COURSE BUILD KNOWLEDGE?
SOLVE PRACTICE PROBLEMS IN MATH/SCIENCE COURSES REPEATEDLY
THINK CRITICALLY: TEST YOUR ASSUMPTIONS (OFFICE HOURS, TUTOR, OTHER STUDENTS, PRACTICE TESTS…)

RULE OF THUMB: STUDY 2 HOURS (MORE, IF STEM CLASSES) PER CREDIT PER WEEK

See also: OAE, Mathematical Sciences Learning Laboratory, University Writing Center, Goal-Setting Workshop, Reading & Annotating Texts Workshop, Note-taking Workshop, Note-taking Workshop, Studying Strategies Workshop, Test-taking Workshop, Studying Strategies Workshop, Test-taking Workshop.