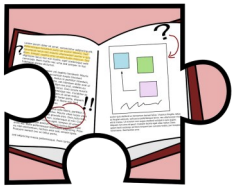
STUDY SKILLS PRINCIPLES IN A NUTSHELL: THE PATH TO SUCCESS

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.***

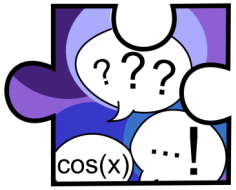
See also: OAE, Mathematical Sciences Learning Laboratory, University Writing Center, Goal-setting workshop



BEFORE EACH CLASS:
Get prepared

Read text, etc. (at least *skim*); have questions ready (*why* & *how,* more than *what*)
Review earlier material: get a sense of context for the material coming up

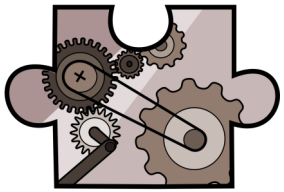
See also: Reading & Annotating Texts workshop, Note-taking workshop



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...*

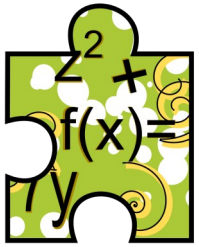
See also: Note-taking workshop



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…)

See also: Note-taking workshop
Studying Strategies workshop



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…)*

See also: Studying Strategies workshop, Test-taking workshop

Rule of thumb: study 2 hours (more, if STEM classes) per credit per week