Study Skills:
Study Groups
Student Success Center
Eastern Illinois University

What is a study group?
A study group is a small group of students with similar goals who meet regularly to review course material and prepare for exams.

Why should I form a study group?
- Research shows students learn more from teaching each other
- Maximize your time efficiency by dividing up large tasks into more manageable chunks
- Confirm your understanding and comprehension by explaining ideas to others
- Find answers to your questions from peers
- Avoid falling behind in class by regularly reviewing material
- Enhance your knowledge of the subject area
- Studying doesn’t have to be a boring, solitary activity. Make it fun and meet new people.

Making the most of your study group:
- Only include students who are fully willing to participate
- Keep the group small (3-6 students is most effective)
- Plan to meet regularly—not just before exams
- Find a good location (classroom, meeting room at library, etc.) with helpful resources such as chalkboards and moveable furniture
- Hold each member accountable to prepare for study sessions ahead of time (assign each person to review certain material to teach)
- Make a list of questions your group has and meet with instructor for clarification
- Review of what you have learned at conclusion of study session
- At end of each study group, determine what you will review next session and assign each member a specific task to complete

S hare Solutions
T est Others
U nite for Success
D on’t Delay
Y ou Are Not Alone
G oal-Oriented
R espect Each Other
O rganize for Learning
U nderstand the Process
P articipate Often
Productive Study Group Activities

Review Lecture Notes
♦ Meet regularly after class to share and compare notes.
♦ Your teammate may have picked up on something you missed.
♦ Orally reviewing notes is an excellent way to begin to learn the material and identify any questions you have.
♦ Use chalkboard to illustrate any concepts or problems
♦ Create visual organizers to aid in learning & review (matrixes, outlines, concept maps, etc.)

Reading Review
♦ After each member has individually read the assigned reading, discuss each chapter—How does the reading compare with the notes?
♦ Assign sections of the reading for team members to summarize and teach to the group

Instructor Meetings
♦ Your study group should meet with the course instructor to answer questions & seek assistance preparing for exams. This sends a message to the instructor that you are serious about doing well in the course

Sample Problems
♦ Work on sample problems independently and in groups
♦ Write a list of steps for completing the problem & take turns explaining how to solve problems
♦ Decide on a few problems to work independently to confirm understanding
♦ Utilize chalkboard to ensure everyone understands how to work problem

Exam Preparation
♦ Assign each team member certain sections to review and teach
♦ Ask each team member to create a study guide for his/her section
♦ Formulate sample test questions and take practice exams simulating the testing conditions (amount of time; without books, notes, etc.)
♦ Review practice exams to determine why any problems were answered incorrectly