

Study Strategies for Memory-based Tests

The strategies below are particularly useful for classes or topics that have a lot of vocabulary or names.

- Flashcards - the key to flashcards is to write VERY LITTLE on the card.
 - Flashcard tips:
 - One side of the card should have 1 vocabulary word on it and the other side should have a definition or picture
 - Alternatively, you could write 1 question on the front side, and the answer on the back.
 - Some tips for using flashcards:
 - Make sure to study the flashcards in BOTH DIRECTIONS (looking at the word and saying the definition and looking at the definition and saying the word).
 - Keep them with you. Study them whenever you have a few minutes. A little studying more often is better than a lot of studying for a short time.
 - Make piles with your flashcards – one pile for the information you know and one pile for the information you forgot. Then take the second pile and go through it again - and again, put the cards into two piles. This way you spend more time studying the cards that you are more difficult.
- Photocopy pictures from the book (and remove the labels).
 - Make about five copies of each picture. Hang these pictures in various places. As you walk by each picture label 1 thing on the picture. Next time you walk by it, label something else. Soon you will have labeled most of the items on the picture. When you have one or two left - if you know them, label them - if you don't know them, study them.
- Get a coloring book.
 - There are coloring books for most of the topics you will study. These are a great resource, and an effective way to learn certain material. Again, the key is a little at a time. Color one page over lunch, one as you are watching TV after dinner, etc.
 - Instead of a coloring book, photocopy or trace the pictures from the textbook - then color and label them. (Make a few copies of these pictures and remove the labels.)
- Look for online quizzes.
- Make sure to use the open lab time, if it's provided. Pictures are nice, but they are not the same as the real thing. Use these study strategies as you are holding and looking at the 3-dimensional models/specimens:
 - Look at the list of terms and identify all of them on the object.
 - Without looking at a list, point to and name all the parts of the object that you need to know. Then check the list.
 - Without looking at a list, point to and write down the names of all the parts of the object that you need to know. Then check the list. Remember, on the test you will have to write (and spell the word), not say it aloud.
 - Have someone point to a part and you write it on a sheet of paper. This is the best way to study because this is how most lab practicals are set up. If you can't find another student to quiz you, ask the tutors or your instructor.