

STUDY TIPS FOR BIOLOGY CLASSES

The following are study strategies that are geared toward students in biology classes. You probably won't have time to try all of these strategies, but pick a few that you think may help and try those. The key is to find multiple ways to work with the information.

Before Class – Read the text

- Don't try to memorize the whole chapter. The instructor will let you know which parts of the chapter are most relevant.
- Look at the pictures and read the captions. Biology is a visual subject and many of the concepts are best explained as a picture. If a picture is use many times – it is probably important
- If the instructor has online notes, review sheets, or other information, read them prior to class and bring them with you to class.

During Class

- Bring your book as well as any note sets / review sheets that the instructor provides. One of the most common difficulties in science classes is that it's difficult to keep up with the speed of lectures. If you have the pictures from the book (or photocopies) you will be able to take notes much more quickly.
- Put it in your notes if the instructor...
 - writes it on the board, says "this is important" or something similar, or refers to something in the book
- Develop a system for taking notes. You can develop your own or talk with a study skills consultant.
- If you miss something during lecture:
 - Ask the instructor to repeat the information.
 - Leave a space and move on - come back and fill in what you missed later.
- If something is unclear in class - ASK! Asking makes you appear interested in the material.
- If you have the time, you may want to record the lectures. This way, if you miss something, you can always go back to it, or you can also listen to the whole lecture again.

After Class

- Use the resources that are provided! There are study groups and tutors available. Ask a study skills consultant to help you find one.
- Find online resources that cover the same information.
- If you have any questions, ask your instructor during office hours. Instructors NEVER mind that you are asking them questions related to their class.

Studying for the test

- Write your own test. If you had 20 (or 50, or 100) questions that you could ask about this information - what would you ask? What topics are the most important? How would you ask questions about each of these topics?
- Find a study group. This technique doesn't work for everyone, but it can be very effective. Talk through the subject matter and make sure everyone understands it or quiz each other. This is a great resource to make sure that you aren't misunderstanding the concepts.

In a Lab Class

- Read the lab for that day and make sure you fully understand what you are doing in class. In most lab classes, you will be expected to be self-sufficient in completing the assignments, so you do need to understand what is expected of you that day.
- Divide and conquer. You may not have time to do all parts of the experiment on your own. Part of the skills that a laboratory class is meant to teach is how to work together. However, make sure you understand all parts of the experiment, even if you didn't actually conduct it yourself.