STUDY BUDDY: TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL & PRODUCTIVE PEER STUDY MEETINGS

SUCCESSFUL STUDY MEETINGS:

✓ Group members matter: All group members must be serious about their academics, dependable, comfortable working with one another, attend all classes and devote time and energy to studying on their own before and after peer study meetings

✓ Keep groups small: Two to four people work best together

✓ Keep meeting dates/times consistent: Find a day/time that works well for all group members and meet regularly, every week for a set amount of time

✓ Make meetings focused on academics: Socialize and vent outside of study meeting times

✓ Make meetings structured: Decide what activities you will do when you meet, and what work group members need to do on their own before meeting

✓ Hold meetings in locations with few distractions: See this list of good study spaces around campus, which includes group study rooms in the Morris Library

✓ Make sure group members come prepared: In order to stay in the group, require members to do their pre-meeting work and contribute to group activities

✓ Aim for group understanding: Utilize meetings to discuss concepts and continually challenge each other’s explanations in order come to a better understanding as a group. Attend professor’s/TA’s office hours together when the group is stuck or in disagreement

TEAM WORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

Working with classmates helps to:

- promote academic success
- build skills you need for your future
  - team work
  - problem solving
  - critical thinking
  - communication
- prepare you for graduate school and employment

EXAMPLES OF PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES TO DO IN PEER STUDY MEETINGS:

- Have members come to meetings with specific questions, then take turns answering each other’s questions and explaining concepts and terms
- Work through difficult questions that members could not solve on their own, then create procedures in words explaining how to get to solutions and identify the concepts being tested in the questions
- Have members come to meetings with summarized notes, then share and compare work to create a most complete set of notes or detailed outline
- Have members identify different types of commonly asked questions and create examples of each before meeting, then share your questions and test each other
- Create structure in your meetings using time, for example devote the first 25 minutes for asking and answering questions, the next 25 minutes for a planned activity, and the last 10 minutes for a wrap up summarizing what was learned and what needs to be done before the next meeting