Tips to Prepare for End of the Semester Final Exams, Papers and Projects

Create a Study Schedule: Set up a realistic schedule that allows for enough time to complete work for each of your courses. Try writing everything down on time management worksheets.

Choose A Place Where You Can Study: Studying takes a great amount of concentration. Find somewhere to study that is conducive for concentrating and learning. An ideal place to study is quiet, comfortable, and distraction free. Here are some good places to study on campus. Check out these good study locations on campus.

Don’t Procrastinate: Waiting to study until the night before an exam is disastrous. Procrastinating causes unnecessary stress and sets one up for failure. Instead, plan ahead. Look at your exam schedule, break down your studying into a topics and BEGIN STUDYING NOW.

Review Previous Tests, Quizzes and Assignments: Review previous tests, quizzes and assignments. In addition, do practice tests and come up with possible test questions and answers. FOCUS on filling in the gaps in your skills and understandings.

Review Your Notes and Readings: Use your notes and the course readings to organize and connect large chunks of course material. CREATE outlines or study guides and flesh them out with as much information as possible.

Allow Enough Time to Complete Writing Assignments: Plan ahead. Make sure you have enough time to write a draft, revise and proofread. Plan to write over a period of time, NOT in one night.

Form Study Groups: Study groups can be a great resource when studying for finals. Participants in the group need to study individually before studying together. You and your study partners can discuss concepts and problems to help each other better understand them. You can compare notes to create a most complete set of notes. You can also quiz each other and help each other identify the correct answers on past exams and practice tests. STAY PRODUCTIVE in the group--make sure everyone stays focused and on task.

Ask for Help: Don’t be afraid to ask your instructor, TA or someone else for assistance. If after reviewing, you still don’t understand something, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OFFICE HOURS, REVIEW SESSIONS and TUTORING SERVICES to ask questions about the material.

Stay Calm and Take Care of Yourself: The end of the semester does NOT mean panic time! Stressing out is not productive and may damage your performance on exams and assignments. When you start feeling stressed, breathe and try to relax. Take a break when you get frustrated. Talk to a friend. Go for a walk. Grab a snack. Study for a different subject. Eat well, get plenty of sleep and stay calm.