



Student Learning Services

General Tips for Math and Science Study

- **Time Management** – Math and Science texts are technical in nature; they cannot be skimmed over. You will need to make enough time available to understand the concepts and absorb the material.
- **Don't Burn Out** – Study math and science intensively for no more than an hour at a time, then take a break and study something unrelated, like history or literature, before going back to science or math.
- **Prepare Questions** – If the text seems ambiguous about a particular concept, write out a specific question about it to ask your instructor during class.
- **For Math Texts** – Fill in the blanks- To save space, textbook authors often skip repetitive steps in simple exercises. To get a better grasp of how the problem progresses, it's better to write out all the steps. *Do not try to memorize the problems themselves!!!* The concept used in the problem and the formula are the important things to know.
- **For Science Texts** – While you concentrate on the details, keep your focus on the concepts. Think about the “why” of what you're reading. In a chemical reaction for example, you need to know what ingredients are reacting and what is taking place, but also *why* it is happening.
- **Study Buddies and Groups** – Study partners can test each other and provide valuable interactive learning not possible when you study alone.
- **Recitation-** Test yourself by reciting aloud the facts you are trying to remember. Recitation is the quickest way to get information from short term to long term memory.
- **Teach someone else-** You will retain 95% of the information
- **Mnemonic Devices** – There are several very effective memory strategies, including gimmicks to help you remember the order of terms/order of operations. For example, in Math, **FOIL** is a mnemonic for remembering the order of operations for multiplying two binomials: **F**irst, **O**utside, **I**nside, and **L**ast.
- **Mind Mapping-** is a general term for any graph, chart, or picture which shows relationships between related terms or concepts. Create these as tools to use for study.

Adapted from information taken from www.uml.edu

For tutoring and/or study skills to help you to succeed in Math and Science visit Student Learning Services located in Room 110.