Get Formulas that Work!
Study Strategies for Math & Accounting

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Overview

• Importance of Study Strategies

(Class + HW + Notes + Study Sessions + Self-Test + Exam Prep) Using Resources = RESULTS

• How to Approach Class time & Homework
• 4 Parts of a Study Session
• Study Strategies
• Textbook, Vocabulary, Word Problem Tips
Why Develop Study Strategies?

• Cumulative nature of classes
• More than memorizing...

it’s about **understanding** & being able to apply underlying processes & concepts

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"I forgot to make a back-up copy of my brain, so everything I learned last semester was lost."
How are **YOU** Doing
Be Consistent & Plan

Go to Class

Use Resources

Professor

PAL Group Learning Sessions

Tutoring

Exam Prep

Self-Test

Daily Study Session(s)

Do Homework

Review Notes
Importance of Studying Daily
Research on the rate of forgetting....

After 20 MINUTES, nearly **50%** of what was learned is forgotten

**After 1 DAY, nearly 66% is lost**

After 15 DAYS, **75%** is lost

**After 2 DAYS, 69% is lost**

**After 31 DAYS, 78% is lost**
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Approaching Math & ACCT

• Sequence of information is intentional
• **Consistent Practice** is key to understanding
• Aim to understand **how** to approach & finish a problem (apply) & **why** items are handled in a certain way
• Use the context of a problem to develop a solution (*ex. recommendation to a company*)
• Develop the habit of asking yourself, “**does my final answer make sense?**”
How to Approach Class Time

✓ **Preview** the material/chapter prior to class
   Take **thorough notes** in class

✓ Write down **all steps & problems**

✓ **BE ACTIVE** - participate & ask questions

✓ **Volunteer** answers
Taking ACCT Lecture Notes

- Include description of accounting rule & **all** related examples
- Write down **everything** the professor shows on board
- Listen for verbal conclusions & key points
- For multi-step problems, write the **number** & **how** the computation is performed
✓ **Always** do the homework
✓ Use the time **immediately** after each class for homework or review
✓ **Make lists of formulas & techniques** to use later when you study for exams
✓ Read each problem **carefully** & underline key words & phrases
✓ Note problems you have trouble with & **bring these questions** to class or office hours
✓ Think about the **WHY & GOAL** of a problem
✓ Go to office hours, **PAL group learning sessions**, & tutoring
Review Notes within 24 Hours

• Read notes
• Fill in any gaps
• Rewrite/Reorganize notes
• Revisit things you didn’t understand in lecture
4 Parts to a DAILY Study Session

1. Set a Goal: 1-2 minutes
2. Focused, Active Study: 30-50 minutes
3. Take a Break: 10-15 minutes
4. Review: 5 minutes
Consistently Study to Retain Info

According to a study, students who...

• Reviewed the material **immediately** after learning it
• Did **periodic reviews**

...able to retain about 80% of material after 2 months
Strategies for Studying Actively

- Rework in-class problems on separate piece of paper & check
- Write (in text) each step to solving a problem
- Work problems backwards to forwards
- Repeat aloud steps to solving problems
- Relate new information to YOU
- Break complex problems into parts
- Summarize each problem, concept, etc.
Active Study Strategies for ACCT

- Rework problems to understand “how”
- Develop an orderly methodology for solving problems (helps organize thoughts)
- Rework the homework & textbook self-tests & practice problems for review
- Work problems that involve all concepts
- Work problems backwards, forwards, & inside out
More Strategies for ACCT

• Look for **patterns** (rules used to solve homework/exam problems)
• Create a numbered **list** of summarized steps for working a problem
  – Broad enough for use w/ different problems
  – Specific enough to provide you w/ guidance
• Use **list** to work homework & text problems
• **Modify list** as needed
Self-Test – Why…

• Identify what you know & what you don’t
• Train your brain to recall

Self-Test – How…

• Rework problems from the text, lecture, & homework
• Teach the material to someone else
• Create & complete “practice exams”
How to Organize all of the Information

• Flash cards
• Running concept lists
• Flow charts
• 2,3, or 4 column notes
• Full page problem guide
Tackling Word Problems

- Sort out the information -
  *Write out the problem in words you understand*

- Draw a diagram or set up the information in a table

- Ask for clarity if confused about wording
Tips for Remembering & Retrieving Info

For Symbols:
– Draw or visualize symbols as characters
– Flashcards & concept list

Equations & Rules:
– Phonetic, visual, & other associations
– Flashcards & concept list

Problem Solutions:
– FREQUENT written or verbal rehearsal & PRACTICE
– Solve forwards & backwards to store in LTM
– Create procedure cards
– Explain problem to someone else
– Mnemonics (FOIL)
– Relate to past experience
– Visual association

Terms & Definitions:
– Highlight & focus on key words in definitions & associate key words to term
– Flashcards & 2-column concept lists
How to Use your Math Textbook

• Don’t try to memorize everything in your text
• Use your textbook as a reference guide
• As you read, work the computations along with the book
• Write out & work the practice problems
How to Use your ACCT Textbook

• Use the index
• Read end-of-chapter questions
• Review charts & tables
• Note section headings
• Review chapter summary
• Lots of technical information – it’s likely you’ll need to read paragraphs a few times to understand
ACCT - Use the “4 Reads”

1st Skim the chapter before class (20 min.)
2nd Do a Focused Reading (2-4 hours)
  - jot notes in margin, highlight
  - take notes
  - work each example by hand
3rd Relevant Reading – as you do homework, refer to related pages in text
4th Review Reading – complete right after topic covered in class
  - tie everything together
  - observe how chapter reflects concepts/principles
Rework Problems from a Different Angle

1) Review each practice problem
2) Consider how the concept could be presented differently (opposite, etc.)
3) Work the problem

ex. if the problem reflects a loss situation, consider, “how would I treat this if it were a gain situation”?
ACCT Vocabulary

• Learn & understand the VOCAB
• Use your textbook to see how writers use each term in a paragraph/sentence
• Review the glossary
Additional Parts of the Equation

(Class + HW + Notes + Study Sessions + Self-Test + Exam Prep) Using Resources = RESULTS

• Plan & use effective time management strategies
• Stay Motivated
• Use your resources
• Expect to spend more time on more challenging info
• Schedule study sessions at times when most productive
• Use wait time for review
And Definitely Don’t…

✓ Cram
✓ Aim to memorize answers
✓ Procrastinate
✓ Skip Class
✓ Wait to ask questions

"You have to solve this problem by yourself. You can’t call tech support."
Final Questions or Thoughts
Contact Us!

What We Have to Offer:
- Workshops
- Tutoring
- Academic Coaching
- MATH & ACCT PAL Sessions

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