STUDY TIPS BEFORE, DURING & AFTER CLASS

PREPARING FOR CLASS:

1. Read and outline the chapter before class. Make sure you bring your outline to class. This allows you to add important information to your outline (as your professor lectures) without having to write everything your professor is saying.
2. Take notes in the margins of your textbooks with question you have. Write down any person experiences that relate and any specific information you found interesting or important to remember.
3. Review your notes from the previous class session before you go to class. This will help you remember what was covered and prepare you to receive new information from the professor.

DURING CLASS:

1. Sit in the front of the class – preferably in the same seat. Your learning and concentration will improve.
2. Engage in class. Put down your phone. Make eye contact. Listen and ask questions!
3. TAKE NOTES! This will help you stay focused and remember the material.
4. Add illustrations to your notes. For example, a timeline can be created from history dates, a scientific class system can be made into a diagram, and statistical information can be transformed into a graph or chart.
5. Keep your attention focused on what the professor is saying. Listen for signals of important things to remember such as “The most important point...” and “Remember that...” Be sure to include in your notes any information the teacher repeats or writes on the board.
6. Create a method of abbreviations you understand, like using symbols in place of words (% instead of “percent,” “med” instead of “medical,” etc. This way you can write more quickly during the class.
7. Place a question mark next to information you write in your notes but are confused about. Talk to your professor or classmates later to clarify the details.
8. Leave plenty of empty space so you can fill in information later.
9. Be an active participant – learning is active and not passive!

AFTER CLASS:

1. Copy over your notes as a review method. The study tip that good students swear by: As soon as possible after class, spend 5-15 minutes going over your notes. Clarify, summarize and think about the major concepts you learned. Retention improves significantly with immediate reinforcement.
2. Review your notes frequently.
3. Compare your notes to another student’s in order to pick up ideas about how to make your notes more useful to you.
4. You might want to add notes from your textbook so that you will have a single source to study from when the test approaches. Use different colors of ink so that you will know what came from the lecture and what came from the book.

Adapted from University of South Carolina Student Success Center