

Making the Most of Virtual Study Groups

SUNY NEW PALTZ CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS



How will you recruit members to your study group?

Ask your classmates or contact them over blackboard. Make sure you are consistent with what your professor expects around group work and individual work.



What is the purpose of your study sessions?

Are you reviewing each week to stay on top of major topics? Meeting a week before exams to gauge where you are at? Are you meeting every other week to see how you can help each other?



When will the study group meet?

Make sure to determine a date and time that works for everyone.



How often will the group meet, and how long will meetings be?

Based on the purpose you identified, you can identify a frequency and length that meets the needs of your group.



Where will online meetings be held?

Will you use zoom, facetime, skype, google meet, or other online tools?



How will you contact each other between meetings or with updates?

Will you start a GroupMe, use texting, communicate via Hawkmail? Some people may not want to share their phone number so try using apps and online tools to facilitate communication and maintain privacy.



How should members prepare for the study group?

What should people get done on their own to make the most of your time together?

FORMING STUDY GROUPS



Active Learning

Study groups are most effective when you utilize active and collaborative learning strategies to work together. Preparing activities in advance can help you make the most of your time together. Check out the ideas below for strategies to use in your next study group!

Evaluate & Create

- Predict exam questions; trade the questions and practice answering them.
- Create quizzes on powerpoint and practice answering them in the study session.
- When answering questions, be sure to explain WHY.
- It is important to know why your answer is right, it is also important to know why other answers are incorrect.
- Try to answer questions from all angles. Ask: "what would happen if...."
- After each exam, list activities from past study sessions that were most helpful in preparing for the test. Use this to revise your study plan for the next test.

CREATE

EVALUATE

Apply & Analyze

- Make connections on a visual representation like a shared document, an outline, a concept map, Venn Diagram, etc.
- Quiz each other to see where you still have gaps.
- Work individually on problems and then compare answers and steps taken to solve the problems.
- Write out the steps in a process. Have someone in the group explain each step.
- One person can state the first step of a process and each person can elaborate on the next step in the process until you collectively solve the problem.

ANALYZE

APPLY

Remember & Understand

- Identify the clearest and the most confusing points for each concept you need to review. Then as a group, work through the confusing points.
- Make a list of all concepts (from the past week, on the test, etc.) and have each person choose a concept to teach the group.
- Create a list of key terms, divide them up among members, and each person can share the notes with the group.
- One person can work through the steps of a practice problem and another group member can explain the the steps they are taking.
- Explain processes, graphs, sample problems, and diagrams aloud to group members.
- Fill in a table with key terms, definitions, examples, and hierarchies.
- Use a shared document to combine notes to create a full outline of important topics.

UNDERSTAND

REMEMBER

USE A MIX OF THESE BLOOM'S TAXONOMY TECHNIQUES TO LEARN THE MATERIAL WITH YOUR STUDY GROUP.