
Collaborating for Success

Forming Study Groups

1. **Identify Your Needs and Establish Expectations**

Many students join study groups without establishing goals, identifying needs, or assessing the learning styles of the group. It is important to identify what you want to accomplish at each session and determine if your expectations and goals are similar to those in the group.

2. **Form a Study Group**

An effective study group consists of 3-6 students. A small, manageable group will allow students to effectively exchange ideas, pose questions, communicate concerns, and pair with one another to work on group assigned tasks. Small groups also allow each member to build confidence in posing questions and facilitate a deeper understanding of the material.

3. **Organize the Sessions (Time, Location, and Material)**

Decide on a conducive location and regular meeting times. Prior to each session, the group should decide on the material that will be the focal point of the upcoming session. End each session with a plan for the next session.

4. **Prepare for the Sessions**

Review prior to meeting with your study group. This is a very important step to insure you gain maximum benefit from the meetings. This will afford you the opportunity to engage in deep learning during the sessions. Bring questions, take the first 5-10 minutes to review and compare lecture notes, and utilize the teach-back method.

5. **Follow up**

After the session, review the material again focusing on areas that you have identified as weak areas.

6. **Assess the Groups Effectiveness (Meeting goals?)**

7. Determine if you are achieving your goals. Are you gaining new perspectives on subject matters? Are you developing new study skills? Are you filling knowledge gaps? Are you feeling more comfortable and confident with the material? Do you feel motivated?