ACADEMIC SUCCESS STRATEGIES

The Learning Process

- **Pre-read** assigned lecture material—this will be your first exposure to the information, some of which you may not understand. Make note of any unclear concept(s) in hopes of it being cleared up later in lecture.

- **Engage the mind** during lecture by taking notes, participating in discussion, ask questions when necessary, and make notes as to anything poorly understood so you can re-read the material/text or follow up with your instructor.

- **Re-read** selected material in text to clarify remaining questions you have.

- **Review notes** ASAP! It is a great idea to re-write your notes in your own words so they are crystal clear when you look at them at a later date. This also helps you to know what makes sense and what does not—the latter being the most important.

- **Study in Groups.** This is arguably your most valuable tool—though admittedly not for everyone. Compare notes, teach, and quiz each other. Have each member of the group develop test questions like you might see on a “real” exam—you would be surprised how closely they may actually resemble your instructor’s questions.

- **Review** notes again prior to the exam. If you have done all the aforementioned then this part should really be a quick review and maybe a point for you to tie up any concepts that are still a bit vague. Hopefully, you have been staying on top of the material on a daily basis so it is not Greek to you the night before the test.

Studying

- **Quite Space**—minimize distractions (cell phones, email, TV, etc).

- **Set Goals**—decide what it is you plan to learn during the specific study session.

- **Actively Engage**—make drawings, list concepts, use index cards, verbalize, or the like. You will figure out what works best for you.

- **Assess Progress**—are you achieving understanding? If the answer is no then is it your habits, notes, lecture, or more? Obviously, the sooner you figure this out the better off you’ll be.

**Don’t forget to utilize your instructor as a resource. Talk to she/he before or after class to clear-up any unclear points and go to office hours—it is unbelievable how little students take advantage of this opportunity.**