

## Tips for Academic Success

# Creating a Study Group

A study group expands your study skills and enhances your academic performance. Study groups also help you make friends, meet other students in your major, and learn how to study in particular content areas. Below are tips and suggestions on why and how to build your own.

## Advantages

### Large projects

Groups can accomplish more. Divide work among the group members based on their individual strengths.

### Built-In support system

A study group can help you stay focused, stay motivated, prepare for exams and get projects done.

### Sharing notes

If you missed a class or your mind wandered during lecture, other students in the group can help you with what you missed.



### Multiple perspectives

Each student bring their strengths and can learn from each other.

## Ways to Find the Perfect Study Group

Begin sharing email addresses and phone numbers with other students in your class early in the semester.

Notice which students in class attend lecture regularly, pay attention, and answer questions about the material. Ask them to help you form a group.

Diversify whom you ask to join your group. Include some students who take excellent notes, some who do well in lab, others who have effective test-taking skills, and students who attend all the classes to insure the group has all of the most up-to-date course information and materials.

## Ways to Avoid the Study Group Blues

Sometimes study groups are not productive unless members agree on a few simple guidelines:

- Set a standard time and location to meet.
- Decide on what needs to be accomplished at each meeting, and stick to it.
- Agree to stay on topic; personal conversations just get in the way. You can hang out after the study group session.
- Allow everyone in the group a chance to participate and make decisions.
- Assign tasks for the next meeting before leaving the session.