

# Tips for Academic Success

## What's Your Learning Style?

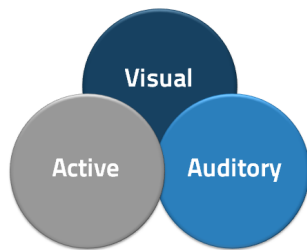
Understanding your preferred learning style will help you study more efficiently and effectively. You can determine your learning style by taking the Quick-Start Learning Styles Inventory below.

### Quick-Start Learning Styles Inventory

#### QUESTION 1: Preferred Learning Modality

*When learning new information, are you a/an:*

- Visual Learner because you like to read your textbook or other course-related material.
- Auditory Learner because you like to listen to a lecture or have someone explain it to you.
- Active Learner because you like to learn by constructing a model, solving problems, etc.



#### QUESTION 2: Individual or Group Work

*When studying, you prefer to:*

- Work alone.
- Work in small groups.

#### QUESTION 3: Examples or Big Picture

*When introduced to new information, do you prefer to:*

- Examine the big picture or main idea before considering specific examples.
- Think about examples that then lead to the big picture or main idea.

Want to know more about making the most of your learning style? Schedule an individual consultation with a staff member in Academic Resources by calling 216-368-3478.

### Reviewing the Results

#### Visual Learners

- ⇒ Read the textbook before class.
- ⇒ Highlight lecture notes after class.
- ⇒ Add reading notes, summary sheets, arrows, diagrams.

#### Auditory Learners

- ⇒ Skim the textbook before class; then follow up after class with more in-depth reading.
- ⇒ Study lecture and reading notes by "talking" through the information or by discussing the material with a study group or tutor.

#### Active Learners

- ⇒ Work with a study group to develop summary/review sheets when preparing for an exam
- ⇒ Underline and take marginal notes when reading

#### Individual Study or Small Group Work

While you may prefer working alone, participating in a small group project or forming a study group has certain advantages.

*Small Groups Can:*

- Help you master difficult material.
- Motivate you to study when you feel frustrated with a course.
- Divide up the work of preparing review sheets for exams.
- Prepare you for collaborative work that you'll do in your professional career.

*Big Picture or Examples*

Professors use their preferred learning style when presenting course material. If you're having difficulty understanding a professor's lectures, it may be that your learning style doesn't match the professor's style. For instance, you may be expecting the big picture in a lecture while your professor introduces new material through examples.