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| **Initial Learning** | **Review & Self-Test for Exam** |
| Attend class and take notes on material covered. | Revisit your notes after class and recite concepts each week. Teach the concept to someone else (in a study group, or 1-on-1) or practice reciting aloud. |
| Read the textbook and take notes of main ideas while reading (use any note-taking style). | Practice summarizing concepts aloud or in writing. Describe connections between the main ideas, names, dates, vocabulary and other concepts and ideas. |
| Identify steps needed to solve problems in text book. | Work through practice problems without looking at the answer or process. |
| Focus some attention on the pictures, graphs and graphics in your text book or notes. | Redraw information from memory, or practice explaining the concept they illustrate. |
| Make up test questions from texts, class notes and other sources. What would you put on the exam if you were the instructor? | Answer questions, verify answers, and relearn information if you answer incorrectly. Did you get it right? Would you get full credit? |
| Create a concept map or comparison chart to map out ideas, information, and concepts. | Practice talking through concepts and their relationships to one another without looking. |
| Fill out existing study guide or create your own study guide. | Quiz yourself on study guide information (out loud or in your head) |
| Make up a practice exam based on sample problems and ideas from across all course materials and chapters. | Take the practice exam in test-like conditions, analyze your results & refocus on material you missed. |
| Make flashcards for key concepts, names, formulas, dates, etc. | Practice your flashcards until you know the information in both directions (Given side A, you can recite side B, and vice versa). |

Each Week:

* Find connections between your textbook and the lecture/class discussion. What concepts overlap, connect, or seem most emphasized?
* Spend most of your time with the new material from that week, but also spend a bit of time revisiting prior week’s problems, concepts, or topics. Regularly revisiting these will help you establish and retain them in your long term memory.
* Mix up ideas and concepts from different chapters when you review. This approach will more closely simulate a test scenario than if you review concepts in clumps.

Academic Success Center

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& Iowa State University, 2023