

Davis Research Project

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A Message From Su Yeong Kim, Chief Researcher

We are very pleased to have you continue with the Davis Research Project. In this issue, we highlight information on class preparation and test taking.

Please note that the project is now housed at The University of Texas at Austin. We look forward to your continued support and participation in the project. We can be reached by e-mail at projectfamily@gmail.com, by phone at (415) 271-0390 or 1-(866)7-FAMILY (toll-free), and on the internet at <http://webspace.utexas.edu/syk343/>. When you move or when your contact information changes, please update your contact information.



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Class Preparation

Students often underestimate the value of being prepared for class. When you are not prepared for class, you will likely fall behind with the class material, be less engaged in class participation, and have lower test scores. When you are prepared for class, you will be ready to absorb and understand the lecture materials, take pop quizzes, and answer any questions the instructor may ask during class. The following are a few suggestions to help you better prepare for class.

Understand your learning style and schedule classes that fit your needs.

Understanding when and where you are most proficient is an important factor in your classroom experience. For example, do not take 8:00 am classes if you are not a morning person. Try to avoid large lecture courses if you thrive in a smaller group setting. Make the effort to see the professor during his or her office hours if you need more assistance.

Have all of your supplies and materials ready for class. You can wait to buy your textbooks, course packets, lab kits, or any other necessary materials after your first class session. Waiting until after the first class day to buy materials may save you money because some teachers will tell you on the first class day that they

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will not be using the required book or that the older editions of textbooks can also be used.

Familiarize yourself with the syllabus and mark important dates into your planner. Write down important dates and deadlines such as assignment due dates, review sessions, office hours, and test dates.

Complete all of your assigned readings and assignments before class. The assigned readings and assignments are intended to help you follow the lecture with ease, better understand the instructor, and take more concise notes. An assignment written next to a date on the syllabus means to finish the reading by that date, not to start it on that date. Finally, you need to do your homework even if it is optional, because the assignments provide practice and application of the concepts learned in class.

Briefly review your notes before class. A review of the class content will fill in the gaps of information you may have, refresh

your memory, and prepare you to actively participate, ask relevant questions, or make insightful comments.

Arrive early and place yourself in your ideal learning location. Arriving early allows you to pick the best seats. Position yourself in the classroom where you can best listen, ask questions, and see visual materials. The best seats are usually in the front and center.

Stay alert and attentive in class. Make sure you get proper rest and are awake in class because sleeping or daydreaming in class is just as bad as not attending. Avoid distractions such as talking to friends because this can interfere with your concentration and cause you to miss lecture material.

Take notes during class. Taking notes forces you to listen carefully and helps you remember the important points.

Form a support network by exchanging phone numbers or email addresses with class-



Exchanging phone numbers is simple. It will become a great resource for you.

mates. The classroom is also a place to meet new people and network with peers who are serious about their education. Furthermore, this group will offer opportunities for scholarly exchange and will be a valuable resource if you ever miss class and need to get notes, assignments, or handouts.

Conclusion

Preparation is essential to having a positive classroom experience. It not only ensures you good overall class performance, but also gives the instructor a good impression of your academic dedication. By actively preparing for class, you will be ready to get the most out of your class time and will be equipped with knowledge for academic success.

Test Taking

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Having good test taking skills is important because you will most likely be required to take at least one test in your life. For example, you will most likely take a licensing test such as a driving test. The information presented below gives general advice on preparing for a test, anticipating test content, and overcoming test anxiety to help you succeed on your test day.

General Test Preparation

When you are taking a test, you are demonstrating your understanding and mastery of the material. The key to success on test day is early preparation. The following suggestions will help you develop better test taking strategies so that you will excel on test day.

Before the Test Day

- Take complete notes that include examples, lecture notes, and textbook material

- Anticipate test content

-Pay attention to key points on study guides

-Ask the instructor what to expect on the test and what the test format may be (multiple choice, short answer, and the number of questions). Some instructors will even give students sample test questions.

-Pay special attention to key points the instructor emphasizes (instructors emphasize key points by stating something more than once or by writing the material on the board)

- Create review tools for tests

-Create checklists for your study sessions. This will help you iden-

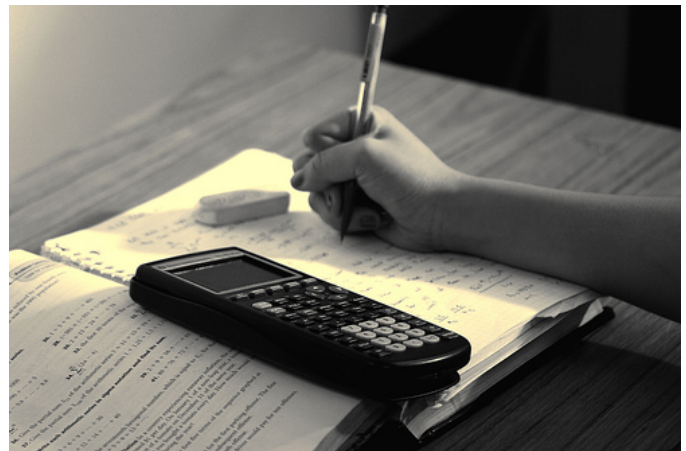
tify all the material that you will be tested on (notes, formulas, ideas, and text assignments you are accountable for)

-Create summaries that highlight important ideas and the relationships among those key ideas

- Overcome test anxiety by reviewing a little everyday and getting a full night of sleep (8 hours) before the exam.

On the Test Day

- Arrive early for the test and bring all the



- Keep and organize all of your old assignments, notes, and tests to use as review material
- Analyze your past test results because each previous test can better prepare you for the next test.

materials needed such as a scantron, calculator, batteries, blue-book, or extra pens or pencils

- Read the directions carefully to avoid careless errors



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Are You Moving?

Please update your address and phone number with us! We would like to keep in touch with you for a follow-up project in the future.

Updating your information is easy:

By Phone: (415)271-0390

By Phone: (866)7-FAMILY (toll-free)

By E-mail: projectfamily@gmail.com

By Web:

<http://webspace.utexas.edu/syk343/>

- Make efficient use of test time

-Make sure you know exactly how much time you have for the test. Check periodically to see if you are progressing in a timely manner. For example, when half of your time is up, make sure you are about half way through your test.

-Answer questions in a strategic way, instead of in order. Answer easy questions first and then difficult questions. If one of the questions is confusing or you do not know the answer, circle it or put a star by it, and come back to answer it later.

-Review your answers if you complete the test early

Examinations are a regular part of many people's lives. To best tackle the challenge of taking examinations, it is important to be prepared. We hope our advice on test preparation will empower you to tackle any test with confidence.

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