



BLACK HAWK COLLEGE

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## The Do's and Don'ts of Studying 7 Ways to get A's

### **Spend enough time studying**

Schedule your study time to ensure that you study 2 hours outside of class for every one hour you spend in class each week (12 credits = 12 hours in class/week = 24 hours studying outside of class/week). Make a weekly class/study schedule and follow it!

### **Review what you are learning**

Spend 5 minutes every day to review class notes, do weekly reviews of each subject. Review the material prior to class and review your notes after class.

### **Stay on Track**

Keep up with your studying and class assignments. Do all of your homework and turn in all assignments. Try to stay 1-2 chapters ahead in your textbooks and definitely don't fall behind, it is stressful and almost impossible to catch up. Most importantly – attend class!

### **Plan your study time**

Take a few minutes to plan your study time, review what you want to accomplish and get to it. Study 30-45 minutes then take a short 5 minute break. A short break does wonders for the concentration. Don't check your email or phone messages – it will be harder to get back to studying and stop your momentum.

### **Use study groups**

Study groups help you gain a better understanding of what you are learning in your classes. Participating in a study group gives you the opportunity to discuss class material, clarify areas of confusion, compare class notes, and gain different perspectives on class material. Most importantly, you will be motivated to stay up to date with your class assignments and spend more time to studying. Ask 3-5 students in your class to form a study group then schedule weekly study group sessions.

### **Don't multitask while studying**

When you study, do just that – study! Studying while doing two things at once such as sending instant messages (multitasking) makes your studying less effective. This type of studying makes the information you are learning harder to remember later on, especially during tests.

### **Ask questions, get assistance**

Ask questions. Get help before there is a problem; talk with your instructor, use the campus labs and tutors. Always get assistance if there is a problem – never try to do everything by yourself. There are many campus resources designed to support your college success; find out what they are and use them!