Transform Your Studying

# Read the Textbook

## Study

Use active reading strategies to read the textbook and take notes of main ideas (use any note-taking style). Try reading out loud to reinforce learning.

## Check

Practice summarizing concepts aloud or in writing. Describe connections between the main ideas, names, dates, vocabulary, and other concepts and ideas.

# Connect Concepts

## Study

Find connections between your textbook and the lecture/class discussion. What concepts overlap, connect, or seem most emphasized?

## Check

Teach the concepts to someone else, for example in a study group or one-on-one.

# Solve Problems

## Study

Identify the steps needed to solve problems in the textbook and class notes. Rework the examples from class or the textbook without looking at the answer or process.

## Check

Work through enough additional problems without looking at the answer or process until you are able to solve them without any aid or resources.

# Explore Visuals

## Study

Focus attention on dissecting and thoroughly understanding the concepts represented in images or graphics.

## Check

Redraw information from memory, or practice explaining the concept illustrated.

# Think Critically

## Study

Concentrate on why, how, and what if explanations provided in the lecture and textbook.

## Check

Write out the explanations in your own words. Verify your explanations by discussing with the instructor or a peer.

# Map Concepts

## Study

Create a concept map or comparison chart to illustrate the relationship between ideas, information, and concepts.

## Check

Practice talking through or redrawing concepts and their relationships to one another without looking at the source.

# Use Study Guides

## Study

Fill out an existing study guide or create your own study guide.

## Check

Quiz yourself on the study guide information out loud or in your head.

# Make a Practice Test

## Study

Make up a practice exam based on sample problems and ideas from across all course materials and chapters.

## Check

Take the practice exam in test-like conditions. Review your results. Refocus on material you missed and why it was missed.

# Additional Tips

Spend most of your time each week with the new material from that week, but also spend a bit of time revisiting previous 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.

Additional Info

For more information, visit the Center for Academic Success in B-31 Coates Hall, call (225)578-2872, or visit [lsu.edu/cas](https://lsu.edu/cas/).