

How Do I Prepare for Finals?

ORGANIZATIONAL TIPS

Make a list of what needs to be completed for each course. Also list what you need to study for each course. Writing down what you have to do gives you a sense of control. Also, you may be surprised to discover that it's not as bad as you think.

- **Determine your current grade for each course.** Using this information, you can decide how to allocate your time and whether you need to take an elective course as Pass/No Pass. Check with your professor before you make any major decisions regarding a course.
- **See your professor if you have questions about any end-of-the-semester projects or the final.**
- **Get an ESS Finals Calendar, which is available the last few weeks of each semester.** Use this calendar to write down what you need to accomplish each day.
- **Divide your study days into three segments: morning, afternoon, and evening.** Jot down goals for each segment. Use the lists that you made for each course to plan your time.
- **Talk with Resident Assistant or Commuter Assistant if you are feeling stressed out about your finals.** These peer mentors will have some practical suggestions for handling test anxiety. Also you may want to talk with a staff member from ESS or University Counseling.
- **Attend the last week of classes.** Your professor may offer some last-minute tips on how to prepare for the final.

STUDY TIPS

- See if a tutor will be available to work with you at the end of the semester.
- **Use old practice exams to begin your preparation.** Take one as a pretest to help you decide what you do and don't know. Use a second exam towards the end of your preparation to check your progress. Take this second exam under the same conditions that you expect for the final.
- **Create review sheets that summarize key points and formulas.** This activity will help you to sort out and organize course content in a format that makes sense to YOU.
- **Keep in touch with your professor or teaching assistant through email in case you have any last-minute questions.**
- **Create a study group.** Study groups can create review sheets and help group members stay on schedule.
- **Attend review sessions scheduled by your professor, teaching assistant, SI Leader, or Commuter Assistant.** Use these sessions to determine how prepared you are for the final.
- **Ask your professors how you may pick up your graded final.** A review of your graded final will help prepare you for your next set of finals.

