

Study Groups and Supplemental Instruction (SI)

During the 2006-2007 academic year, over 1,500 students participated in study groups, Supplemental Instruction (SI) and Peer Tutoring to better prepare for classes.

WHAT GUIDELINES SHOULD I USE TO FORM A STUDY GROUP?

- **Decide if you want to join a study group near where you live or if you want to organize a group for a particular course.** A group where you live will help you stay motivated to study daily. A study group for a specific course will help you with specific homework assignments.
- **Make the group time and place convenient.** Otherwise, you will find reasons not to attend.
- **Schedule the study group time as if it's a class time.** Write the dates and times in your planner or PDA.
- **Select a place to meet that's conducive to studying rather than to socializing.** The library and empty classrooms are natural places for study groups.

Your residence hall room or your home (if you commute) may not work well because of the distraction of phone, family, and friends.

If you study in library, you have the added advantage of library resources including access to a computer center.

- **Decide on some ground rules for the group.** For instance, do the members have to attend class? Do they have to read their textbook or attempt the homework before the study group meeting?
- **Elect someone to keep the group organized.** Insist that all members read their email on a regular basis so that they can be notified easily if there are any changes in the group meeting. Find a standard weekly meeting time for the entire semester rather than setting a new meeting time each week.

- **Be supportive of each other.** Congratulate members when they do well. Offer support when members are worried about low grades. At the same time, study groups are not a substitute for personal counseling. If a group member is experiencing significant personal concerns, gently refer that member to the appropriate campus service.
- **Check with ESS to see if your group can be assigned a tutor for specific meetings that will be used to review for tests or exams.** Arrangements can be made by contacting James Eller (jle12) of ESS, at 368-5230.

WHAT GUIDELINES SHOULD I FOLLOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF SI AND TUTORING SESSIONS?

- **Successful students attend SI on a regular basis, not just before an exam.** Attending regularly helps students to learn material thoroughly for an exam.
- **Keep track of the questions that you have about a class lecture or homework assignment so you are prepared to ask questions at an SI session or a tutoring appointment.**
- **Don't be afraid to ask a "stupid question."** There are no stupid questions as long as you have read the assignments and tried the homework before attending SI. At the same time, SI and tutoring are not substitutes for attending class.
- **Take an active role in study groups, SI sessions, or tutoring appointments.** The more you "teach" others the material, pose and answer questions, or volunteer to work a problem, the more you will learn.
- **Capitalize on your preferred learning style.** If you're a visual learner, ask for explanations to be written down. If you're an auditory learner, ask for a clear verbal description. Know how you learn best, and make sure that you use this learning mode.