Pre-Test Studying and Review

TEST-TAKING STRATEGIES

The pre-test phase is the most time intensive, and arguably most important, part in the learning process. This is where all of the studying, reviewing, and self-testing takes place, as well as where you would bring in outside resources to help you get ready. It's important to build a good foundation early in the semester (refer to pg. 5 for a review on the Study Cycle and good study habits).



This section will go over self-testing/review as well as additional resources you can utilize to fill in gaps in your understanding leading up to the test.

Self-Testing

Self-testing is the most effective method of reviewing and absorbing the material. Formulating your own questions creates a stronger synaptic response in your brain and demonstrates a deeper level of understanding. Here is a walk-through of the process:

Step 1: Combine lecture notes and reading notes

Before the test, when you're sitting down to begin a study session, assemble all of the materials you have; notes you've taken in class and outside of class during the reading. How do they complement each other? What are the commonalities? What's different? Mark that down to seek clarification later. What are you unsure about? Write down all of the questions you have.

Step 2: Fill in gaps in your understanding

Seek out resources for questions you can't resolve. This could be visiting the professor during their office hours, bringing up your question during the class discussion, or visiting a tutor in the learning lab.

Step 3: Self-Test

Using the two-column method, cover the right side of your notes and quiz yourself over the questions on the left. Evaluate your understanding. Look up and correct the wrong answers so that doesn't stick with you through the test.