Making the Learning process work for you

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1 Active Reading

1.1 Before Reading
Set a goal as to why you are reading. Make up questions to answer.

1.2 While Reading
Quiz yourself, and take notes.

1.3 After Reading
Review your notes more than once.

2 Problem Solving

1. Understand the Problem
2. Devise a plan
3. Carry out the plan
4. Look back

3 Organizing the Learning Process

Learn the information as it comes, don’t cram just before the midterm. If you procrastinate, you still do all the work, just all at once. Don’t allow a lecture to happen without understanding the previous one. The reason videogames are popular, is that there is no risk of failure with them. Unlike soldering, where there is a very real possibility of failure, but also a tangible award.

4 Master the Material

The more times you go through the material, the better you understand it. Learn from lecture notes, annotate the note, and write a summary at the bottom of each page. Do lots of small things to learn, instead of hammering it all in with flash cards.
5 Manage Time

Schedule, don’t overschedule. Make a serious commitment to studying, but don’t forget a little leisure time. Treat school like a job.
Good places to study: KEC
Bad places to study: KEC easy chairs.

dorm rooms are distracting. Study for the courses that need it, not everything. Spend your time on the important stuff.

6 Preparing for tests

With a test, you have 50 minutes to prove what you know. arrive early, so you can anticipate problems. Get a good night’s sleep. Practice under time pressure, even physically in the midterm room. This can help give you a ‘home team’ advantage.

Never leave a midterm early! Re-check your work.

7 Working with Peers

If you work in a group, make sure you understand the material, and aren’t just copying it.
If you study by yourself, you miss out on other’s knowledge. Ask others in the group first, then ask the instructor.

3 commons misconceptions about learning in groups:

1. I learn more by myself
   • You don’t learn alternative ways to do something by yourself.

2. I don’t have anyone to learn with
   • Any class you are in that consists of more than one person has someone you can work with.

3. You are supposed to do your own work
   • Some professors want you to write “collaborated with” across the top of your homework, but you can still work in groups.
   • engineers don’t work alone.

It is more fun to work with other people. By working in groups, you keep each other accountable, and can work harder, longer.