



What are the keys to success – and the problems to avoid in Lecture-Based Classes?

Introduction:

You will be a more focused student if you adjust the way you study depending on the type of class your professor is teaching. In Lecture-Based classes, the professor may lecture part of the time, but classes frequently include discussion and group work based on assigned reading.

What are the KEYS TO SUCCESS in a Lecture-Based Class?



Taking accurate and complete notes, then



Learning the material in those notes within the first 24 hours after each class.

What are students' most common problems in Lecture-Based Classes?

- Students don't have enough background to take good class notes.

Tip:

Skim the assigned material before class so you come to class with some acquaintance with the material. This kind of class preparation also helps if a professor speaks quickly or is difficult to understand.

- Students take too few notes, so they aren't adequately prepared for quizzes and tests.

Tips:

- Include explanations, examples, & students' answers to questions in your notes!
 - Take notes at the beginning and end of class – often the most important times.
 - Faculty frequently begin or end class by summarizing the key points.
 - If the professor begins or ends the class by asking questions, **write the questions down!** Those questions are likely to appear on the next test!
 - Near the end of class, faculty often realize time is running out, so they select especially important points to cover in the last few minutes.
 - Listen for professors "clues" as to what is important – for example, questions the professor asks. [*These questions often become questions on tests!*]
Some professors actually say, "Be sure to know this." [*That's a test question!*]
- Students study for the test but do not do well.
Tips:
 - Perhaps you need to change your mindset. Don't think about "studying for the test." Think about "learning the material" in your class notes the same day as your class. Do not go to sleep on new material without learning it or you will "lose" it!
 - "Reading over" your class notes is a good way to begin studying but also use additional techniques for actually remembering what you need to know.
 - Make a study guide so you can test yourself and make sure you really know and remember the material completely and accurately.
 - Make an appointment to work with a professional tutor at the Learning & Advising Center on improving your test performance. Just call x2730 to set up a time.