

A summary of learning activities

as suggested by past engineering students

In the past orientation, engineering students identified several learning activities that they found useful. This is a summary of their suggestions, together with some other activities that, in the experience of many instructors, may be very useful for some students or in some situations.

The selected activities are organized according to their primary purpose and role in the learning process. However, they can be useful at stages other than the one selected.

Some important considerations

- 1) Studies have shown that successful students do not all use the same learning activities. However, these students all have something in common: they are aware of which activities they use and why they use them.
- 2) Different students have different skills, talents and experiences, so what works for other students may not work for you. You need to experiment and critically assess your choices of learning activities in order to identify the ones that best suit you.
- 3) Beware of fads and “*miraculous*” study programs. Just like any other learning activity, they can be effective for some people in some situations, but are they good for you?
- 4) Identifying activities that work for you is an ongoing process that you will need to monitor for the rest of your life. Be critical about what works and what doesn't, be receptive to new ideas and talk to more expert people to refine your study skills.

<i>Introduction</i>	<i>Exploration</i>	<i>Clarification</i>	<i>Confirmation</i>	<i>Memorization</i>	<i>Demonstration</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Take Notes ✓ Preview the textbook ✓ Attend classes and labs ✓ Listen to the instructor ✓ Watch educational videos or TV programs ✓ Browse terms and definitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Practice on textbook exercises ✓ Read the textbook ✓ Work on additional questions and books ✓ Brainstorm ✓ Field trips (and visiting work sites) ✓ Visit Library or Internet for other sources of info 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Highlight key parts the textbook ✓ Edit notes ✓ Review your learning in a study group ✓ Check in the book when unclear ✓ Ask your instructor or a tutor for help or clarification ✓ Compose a drawing or concept map 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Self-quizzes ✓ Practice questions from old sections ✓ Review topics in groups ✓ Explain topics to other students ✓ Apply what you learn to a practical problem ✓ Write an essay on a topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop a vast vocabulary ✓ Review study notes once a week ✓ Flash cards ✓ Use favourite mnemonic devices ✓ Repeat each exercise more than once ✓ Write a song on the topics to remember ✓ Create and play a game based on course material 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Prepare a summary sheet ✓ Do mock tests ✓ Discuss the requirements and expectations of tests with the instructor ✓ Prepare a list of definitions or theorems or methods ✓ Review old tests
<i>General suggestions</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Work in a quiet space ✓ Have quiet music in background ✓ Use good time management 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sleep sufficiently ✓ Keep in good physical shape ✓ Reserve time for important non-academic activities (family, hobby, meditation, fitness, etc.) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Avoid damaging habits, such as drugs, excessive alcohol or TV ... ✓ <u>DON'T GIVE UP</u> 	