



Tips for Success in Biology

Go to every class!

Prepare for class by **previewing the assigned readings**.

Pay particular attention to the **bold words** or **main concepts** listed in the textbook.

Check information in the notes against the textbook.

Pay particular attention to the illustrations and examples given in the textbook and to those discussed in class.

Review lecture notes within 24 hours of class. After 24 hours, you will lose from memory 60% to 70% of what you heard in class.

Read and review material in the text that relates to the lecture notes. Look at and answer the review questions at the end of each chapter.

Use a study group or a study partner at least occasionally. Discussing information with others will help reinforce what you have learned. Also, other students may be able to explain things about which you are unclear.

Use a course organizer to keep track of due dates and grades on various tasks. You will always know where you stand.

Use flash cards. They are used to organize information such as terms, definitions, people and their contributions, lists, identifying characteristics, and structures.

Frequently visit course and textbook websites to review information, take practice quizzes and tests, and prepare for exams.

Remember that to be successful on biology tests, **you must recall detailed information**, not just recognize concepts.

To practice for the test, **make up questions using chapter headings** in the textbook.

As soon as you get the test, **dump all the information you think you might forget** or confuse while taking the test. Write down numerical data such as percentages and dates, the names of people, figures or drawings, and other information you may forget.

Prepare for each lab by reading the procedure before class.

Make use of the entire lab. Resist the temptation to leave early. Utilize all available open lab hours.

If you have questions, **visit your professor during his/her office hours.** Professors usually welcome questions.

Please note: This information is compiled in conjunction with the Biology & Microbiology Department.