

Planning for Strategic Intervention

Help yourself maximize the help you seek from others

1. Set yourself up for effective learning

- Before class: skim textbook figures, key words, and headings; form questions for class or later study
- After class: summarize notes; rework examples from class; read portions of textbook that clarify difficult or confusing lecture content

2. For BEST learning, attempt examples or practice problems (not necessarily graded)

- Use books, notes to try to figure things out and solve problems, but don't work to the point of frustration...instead:
- Identify the problem -- when you get stuck and stay stuck, write down WHERE you got stuck, WHAT you don't know/understand, and WHY you are confused before moving on

3. Assess and Evaluate your homework (or other assignment/practice from your professor)

- Is the assignment similar to the textbook examples or practice you've already done?
- Skim to figure out what you have to do, and what looks easier or harder, put a ✓ or ? next to each problem

4. Attempt to do homework or problem set (if applicable)

- Start with easier problems marked with a ✓, then work through harder problems as much as you can
- Identify the problem -- when you get stuck and stay stuck, write down WHERE you got stuck, WHAT you don't know/understand, and WHY you are confused. Then move on to the next problem.

Using what you attempted in Steps 2 and 4, what don't you know/understand? What might you need to discuss with someone and/or what do you need to practice?

What is confusing you? Why are you confused?

Write down 3-4 specific questions that articulate your "what" and "why" thoughts above:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5. Now take these questions to get strategic intervention. Go to OFFICE HOURS, help sessions, study group, classmates or a TLC tutor appointment

* Complete the back portion during/after intervention

What answers did you receive to your questions? Have you been able to clear up your confusion? If so, how?

Do you need additional help? Who will you go to and what will you ask? What is your plan/next step?

- **Complete your homework, and continue to study by finding/asking for test-level problems**
- Assess what you learned from study and intervention: Can you do the problems now that you couldn't before? Can you do them without looking at other resources for help? You will be ready for an exam when you can do test-level questions independently.
- If you get stuck again, back up to Step 2 and continue with the process
- Make note of difficult problems, even if you get them correct. Redo these same problems again in another study session to build speed and look for patterns or other solution methods that will help you solve similar problems in the future.

Note areas for further practice here and use as a study guide: