

TEACHING TIPS OF THE MONTH FROM THE MC COMMUNITY



Brought to you by ELITE

December 2019

Theme: Final Exam Prep Strategies to Share with Students

Tip 1: Use Proven Study Strategies

- Quiz yourself on words or concepts using flash cards (paper or digital, such as Quizlet).
- Review old tests to identify the format of test questions and adjust your study strategies for the different types of questions.
- Use mnemonic devices (memory clues such as patterns, acronyms or word association) to help you remember terms or concepts.
- Make a drawing or sketch to illustrate a complex concept and review it for the exam.

Tip 2: Practice Time Management

- Make a study plan detailing how much time you will spend preparing for each exam and when you will study.
- Identify what time of day you are most alert and energized and plan most studying during that time.
- Pace yourself by reviewing your notes and materials daily, instead of cramming the night before the test.

Tip 3: Make Studying Interpersonal

• With a partner, write test questions and quiz each other.

- Form a virtual or in-person study group to exchange study techniques and hold one another accountable.
- Review concepts aloud by teaching them to someone else.
- Meet with a tutor, a coach or your instructor to ask questions and clarify any confusing concepts.

Tip 4: Take Care of Yourself and Your Health

- Get plenty of rest the night before an exam.
- During long study periods, take breaks at intervals to clear your mind and reward yourself with short, fun activities (such as taking a walk or chatting with a friend).
- Play calming music, practice breathing techniques and/or stretch to keep you calm and less anxious.
- Don't forget to eat balanced meals and drink plenty of water.

For more information about these tips and others, check out these resources and share with your students:

- 10 Ways to Prepare for Your Final Exam
- 20 Study Strategies for Finals Week
- 25 Crucial Study Tips for Finals Week

"Teaching Tips of the Month" began as a project of Program for Active Learning in STEM (PALS) and Teaching to Increase Diversity and Equity in STEM (TIDES) grants. Many thanks to Ray Gonzales and Alla Webb, who served as Principle Investigators of the TIDES grants and Kris Lui, who was lead for the PALS grant. You can view <u>archived Teaching Tips of the Month</u> on <u>The Hub.</u> We welcome feedback and invite you to submit ideas for this publication to <u>Angela Lanier, angela.lanier@montgomerycollege.edu).</u>