

# Rutgers Learning Centers

At Camden Campus

## HOW TO SUCCEED IN THE SCIENCES

Succeeding in science requires more than memorization. Materials for most science courses are organized in a similar way: Generally, the professor gives an outline, the outline is supplemented by your text, and your textbook is supplemented by class lecture. Following are steps that will help you to learn the material, create a comprehensive study guide, achieve better test results, and succeed in the sciences.

◇ **Read professor's outline to introduce yourself to new terminology**

◇ **Read textbook chapter as follows:**

1. Read introduction
2. Read summary
3. Skim chapter
4. Read entire chapter from start to finish
5. Work problems/quizzes — check answers in book or in solutions manual.

The intro. and summary of a chapter act like starting points and destinations on a road map. New terminology (landmarks) is generally signaled, and you will note these new terms as you “skim” a chapter. By the time you read the entire chapter, you will have already seen the new terms two, three, or four times! The terms will seem familiar, so you won't need to continually “go back” to the previous paragraph to re-read definitions.

◇ **Create notes using Cornell method:**

This is a superb note taking method because it provides a comprehensive study guide that combines your professor's outline, your text notes, and your lecture notes. Using your professor's outline and your text, outline main concepts of the chapter materials. Put terms on left 1/3 of page; descriptions on right. Leave large, blank spaces between each concept. You will fill in spaces with material provided in class lectures.

◇ **Re-read your notes after you have written them**

◇ **Add class notes to your study guide:**

Supplement home notes with class notes; leave blanks when you miss something and fill it in soon after class. Place a check beside notes that the professor reviews — two checks, if mentioned more than once — to show the concepts you should know. Write all examples from board. Write a summary at bottom of each page. Re-read notes after class, and before you start the next chapter. Review all notes before you start a new chapter.

◇ **Get peer tutoring if you don't understand. Use other resources to help memory:**

Drill problems & solutions; tape & listen to your notes; use concept cards; create questions and answers.

◇ **Form a study group of 3 to 5 people for test preparation:**

Each person takes one portion/chapter of covered material and creates a mini-test on that section, leaving blank spaces for answers. He/She then makes copies of the test for each member of the group. The tests are reviewed together and answers are written in. Confusion can be cleared up by checking with a tutor or the professor. Your group should start reviewing a week prior to the exam. Do not cram at the last minute; you will only become confused. Short, frequent reviews work best.

For more information, visit or call your nearest Rutgers Learning Center, or visit our website:<http://rlc.rutgers.edu>

Camden  
Armitage 231  
856/225-6442

College Ave  
Kreeger LRC  
732/932-1443

Cook/Douglass  
Loree 124  
732/932-1660

Livingston  
Tillett 111  
732/445-0986

Newark  
Conklin 126  
973/353-5608