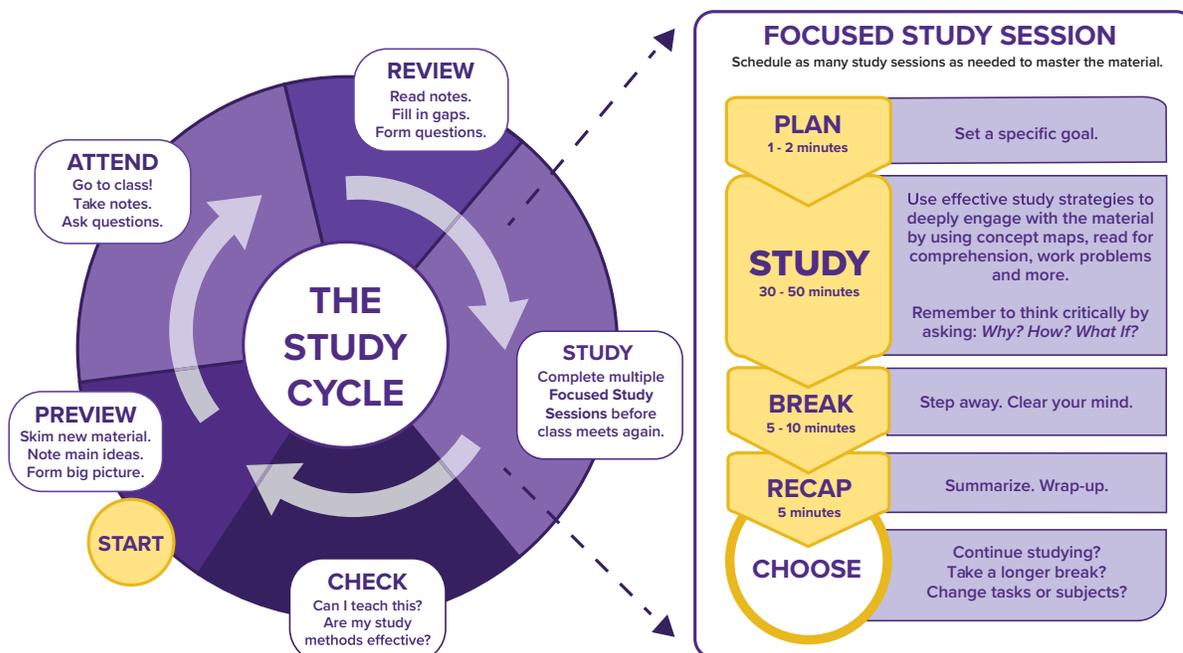


Study Cycle for Problem-Based Courses

Use this Study Cycle to get the most out of in-class time and structure your out-of-class time for problem-based courses.



Adapted from Frank Christ's PLRS system.

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PREVIEW

- Read Chapter Table of Contents, Introduction, and Summary.
- Check Syllabus for Class Topics. Print class notes or slides. Take notice of learning objectives and new concepts.

ATTEND

- Take notes, especially on “how” and “why” and relationships between ideas or concepts.
- Participate in discussions, group work, and/or clicker questions.

REVIEW

- Fill in any gaps.
- Annotate with notes on what is clear/muddy, and identify key terms using color coding or symbols.

STUDY (FSS)

Learn Foundations FIRST

- Read the text, watch videos, annotate notes—Work to explain concepts in words and visuals (not just in numbers and equations).
- Rework examples from class and the textbook—Learn to identify different problem types and the meaning behind each step of the process.
- Attend office hours, Supplemental Instruction, tutoring, or other services—Use resources to enhance learning.

THEN Practice for Independence

- Start with problems that address one concept at a time. If assigned problems are too complex, start with simpler problems. Adjust your approach, as needed.
- Master each problem type. Keep practicing until hints, examples, and other aides are not needed.
- Review missed problems for why the answer was wrong.

CHECK

- Simulate the test environment. (No hints. No help. Timed.)
- Mix up problem types and solve complex problems.

To explore any area in more detail, schedule an academic coaching session by visiting our website.