Form an Effective Study Group

Start a Group in Four Easy Steps

1. Choose 3 to 4 group members.

2. Set an agenda.
   - 1-3 minutes: Set Session Goal
   - 15 minutes: Independent Study
   - 15-20 minutes: Group Study
   - 15-20 minutes: Independent Study
   - 10 minutes: Assess what you do and don’t know
   - 5-10 minutes: Review & set goals for next session

Sample Agenda: Compare Notes
   - Before: Attend class or read and take notes.
   - Goal: Compare notes with others.
   - Independent Study: Review notes. Fill in gaps from textbook, web, etc.
   - Group Study: Compare notes with group members. Add or clarify information.
   - Independent: Combine, rewrite, or study notes to build a better understanding.
   - Assess: Identify topics for review. Determine what ideas need clarification.

Sample Agenda: Complete Homework
   - Before: Review sample problems, read assignment, and gather materials needed to answer questions.
   - Goal: Complete a homework assignment.
   - Independent Study: Work problems/answer questions.
   - Group Study: Discuss answers, explain how you solved problems, and/or reasons for the answer.
   - Independent Study: Rework problems, revise answers, and/or work more problems.
   - Assess: Identify areas that need better understanding.
   - Review: Set goal for next session and steps to prepare.

3. Set deadlines for assignments.

4. Complete tasks before each meeting.

Communication is Key!

The right contact method can make or break your study group. Here are some programs students find useful: Google Docs, Survey Monkey, Doodle, Moodle (to find classmate emails), GroupMe, Google Hangouts and social media.

Find other useful tips at LSU.edu/CAS