



Active Learning Checklist

Adapted from *Teach Students How to Learn*,
by Sandra Yancy McGuire with Stephanie McGuire (Stylus, 2015)

“Study hard in college!” You’ve heard it a million times, but what does that actually mean? Here is a checklist of effective learning strategies; how many of the following are you already doing, and which ones could you try?

- I schedule 2-3 hours of study time for each hour of class time.
- I preview each class by checking the syllabus, my notes from the previous class, and my reading notes.
- I read actively by developing questions before I start to read.
- I paraphrase information as I read.
- I attend every class.
- I take good class notes by hand.
- I go over my notes as soon as possible after class.
- I try to do my homework without using example problems as a guide or copying answers from my class notes or textbook.
- I regularly go to office hours or Teaching Fellows to discuss the materials and ask questions.
- I rework all of the homework problems and questions before a test or quiz.
- I make diagrams or draw mental pictures of the concepts discussed in class.
- I organize information before a test by preparing charts, outlines, or a study guide.
- I rework all of the quiz and test items I have missed before the next class session.
- I prepare as if I have to teach the information I am learning.
- I create practice exams to evaluate my mastery of the material.
- I participate in a study group where we do homework and quiz ourselves on the material.
- I keep track of the whole semester using The Big Picture.
- I keep a weekly calendar and to-do list.
- I make regular use of CTL resources: Teaching Fellows, Writing Fellows, Study Mentors and Study Tables.

Make an appointment with a Study
Mentor for more tips on the transition to
college



Student Success Tips from the
Center for Teaching and Learning
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