

Visual Learner

- ◆ When there is more than one section of a course offered, select the class that meets more often, for shorter periods of time.
- ◆ When there is more than one section of a course offered, check out the classrooms ahead of time. Choose a smaller room with better acoustics.
- ◆ When there is more than one instructor teaching a course, select the instructor that speaks clearly, doesn't rush, and makes use of visuals (handouts, overheads, etc.) Ask your counselor and/or other students to recommend instructors.
- ◆ Read the assignments before each lecture. Make flash cards of important vocabulary words, and learn their meanings before class. This will increase your understanding when you hear the words in the lecture.
- ◆ Come early to class and have your materials ready when the lecture begins (e.g., paper, pen, open book, tape recorder and tape.) It can be difficult to understand a lecture when you miss the beginning; kind of like walking into a movie after it's already started.
- ◆ Review your notes from the previous class before the lecture begins. This will help you anticipate what is coming up.
- ◆ Always sit in the front of the class, close to the instructor.
- ◆ Tape record class lectures. It is a courtesy to ask your instructor's permission first. It is preferable to use a tape recorder with a counter on it. Set the counter at zero, and begin taping when the lecture begins. Take written notes at the same time; this will increase your memory of the material, and keep your brain actively processing the material. When you miss a point, when the instructor says something you don't understand, or when the instructor makes an especially important point, mark the number on the counter in your notes. Then, when you replay the tape, you can focus on these points. Put the recorder on pause during student discussions; you will not be tested on this information. After taping, you will need to transcribe the lecture. You will be better able to study the lecture when it is written down.

- ◆ When you are given directions or an assignment orally, write it down. Then see your instructor after class. Repeat the instructions and ask if you understood them correctly.
- ◆ Write everything down. Don't trust yourself to remember the things you have heard.
- ◆ Be prepared for the end-of-class rush of information. Do not quit listening before the instructor quits lecturing. You may miss some important directions about upcoming assignments or tests.
- ◆ Add visual cues to all written information. Highlight or underline with different colored pens. Use colored post-its and tabs. Draw illustrations.
- ◆ Make a movie of the information in your mind. Visualize the material. Take mental pictures of your notes.
- ◆ Use flash cards to break information into small units to be learned. Take mental pictures of your flash cards.
- ◆ Make a picture out of the information you're studying. Use circles, lines, and/or boxes to group information into categories, and show the relationships between ideas.
- ◆ Use graphic organizers or custom-made diagrams to organize information when preparing an essay and during essay tests.
- ◆ Before an exam, make yourself visual reminders of information that must be memorized. Make post-its containing key words and concepts and place them in highly visible places – on your mirror, notebook, car dashboard, etc.
- ◆ Use different colored pens or highlighters to highlight parts of equations that have different meanings.
- ◆ Spend more time reading. In addition to your textbooks, read simple materials. Read for pleasure.

Source: Susan Hoehn