Making the Most of Tutoring

Best Practices When Receiving Tutoring

Time is at a premium while you’re at school, and demand for tutors is high, so it is best to be prepared for a tutoring session. That way you can get the most out of each session.

- **Seek help early:** Don’t wait too long before seeking help. Last minute is often too late!

- **Come Prepared:** Have some questions ready to ask the tutor when you meet. Be able to identify what areas you are having difficulty with. Have your textbook, calculator and any other equipment you may need with you.

- **Play an ACTIVE role in your session:** Ask questions when you don’t understand material. Do your readings or homework before attending the tutoring session. Don’t just use the tutoring session to complete your homework! Ask the tutor for real life examples that you understand. Ask how a similar question might be asked on an exam.

- **Get the EXTRAS:** If you are struggling to learn a math concept, ask for more questions to practice on. WE LEARN BY DOING! Often tutors can offer another approach to understanding a complex idea: ask if you are having difficulty understanding a concept. Tutors are often aware of how the course material fits into your program of studies. Understanding how the material fits into the overall picture may help you to understand.

- **Make your tutoring session effective:** Stay on topic and don’t be distracted by trivial matters. Remember that little or nothing can be done to change subject matter, the textbook or the instructor during your tutoring session.

- **Respect your tutor’s schedule:** When working with a peer tutor, remember that they too are students who experience similar time pressures and deadlines to those that you do.
Study Tips

- Review the day’s lecture notes the same day that you receive them. Ideally, review the class material before you go home, or stay an extra hour after school to keep up with the day to day classroom activity. Retention and understanding are both improved with regular review. If all else fails review your class material at least once a week.

- Be an active learner: engage in class, ask questions and take part in discussions.

- Find a quiet place to study away from distractions. Know what things distract you and try to reduce or remove them from you study site.

- Complete assigned readings before they are discussed in class.

- Organize a study group with 3 or 4 students to share ideas and understanding. The group is a great resource for test preparation and the explanation of complex concepts.

- Practice good time management techniques. Learn to use small bits of time (5 to 10 minutes) for study or review.

- Have a “study buddy” with whom you can share notes should one of you be absent. This is also someone with whom you can discuss concepts that you may find unclear.

- When studying or reviewing material, recite the material out loud. Studying out loud or attempting to explain a concept to someone else greatly enhances retention.

- Make and use flash cards to memorize terms, definitions and formulas.

- Attend study skill workshops or supplemental instruction sessions offered at the Learning Assistance Centre at the College!

LEARNING ASSISTANCE CENTRE

The Learning Assistance Centre provides a number of educational supports to students of RRC including: peer tutoring, course content workshops, study skill workshops, on-line resources, advising and referrals, in-class study skill presentations and tutoring services for students with a disability. Subject to tutor availability, peer tutoring is available at no cost to students enrolled in a variety of college programs. For more information, go to http://www.rrc.mb.ca/lac or call Ron Hamerling at 632-2251.