

Forming a study group

Get to know your classmates by talking with them outside of your class. Ask people that you feel are motivated to succeed in your course and understand the subject matter. The most effective study groups usually have three to five members who are dependable and tolerant of other ideas.

Once you have your study group members, collectively decide:

1. When and how often you will meet? At least once a week is a good idea.
2. Where you will meet? Choose somewhere with no distractions, where you can talk freely.
3. How long you will study for? Make sure to take breaks if you will be studying for more than 30 minutes.
4. What are your goals? They could be comparing and updating notes, discussing readings and preparing for exams. You can have different goals for each study session.
5. Who will the leader be? The leader can be different for each study session and is responsible for ensuring that the goals of the study session are met and that distractions are kept to a minimum.

Once you have discussed and agreed on the above, make a list of all study group members with their contact details (names, telephone numbers, email addresses) and make sure every member has a copy.

Studying together

Everyone in the group should come to the study session prepared to work and contribute to discussions.

It's a good idea to set up some ground rules at the first study session, such as:

- Listen without interrupting.
- Show respect for each other.
- Keep any criticisms constructive.
- Everyone must have an equal opportunity to participate.
- Socialising is great but should be done outside of the study group session.
- Complaints about teachers and courses should also be done outside of the study group session.