



**TRiO Student Support Services**  
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*You can go anywhere from here!*

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## **TEST-TAKING STRATEGIES**

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☞ Test-taking strategies have the following advantages:

- Improve test scores.
- Bolster student confidence about exams.
- Reduce exam anxiety.

☞ What can I do to prepare for a test?

- Read assignments.
- Review notes from class.
- Meet with other students and/or the instructor.
- Look at previous exams.
- Practice homework problems.
- Ask your instructor what type of test it is – multiple-choice, true/false, essay, etc. (Then you will know how to better prepare for the test, and you won't be surprised when you get the test on test day.)

☞ More helpful hints...

- Arrive early to class, but not so early that you have time to become anxious.
- Check if there is a clock in the room; if not, plan to wear a watch to the test so that you can pace yourself.

☞ What can I do while taking the test?

- Dump information – If there is information that you feel you may forget while you take the test, such as formulas, graphs, or charts, jot them down on the back of the test when you receive it.
- Make sure to thoroughly read all of the directions.
- Plan to use the entire class time.
- Ask the instructor to interpret or reword a question if you don't understand it.
- Be sure that all numbers and letters are legible.

☞ Is there anything that I can do after the test?

- Resolve all questions shortly after the test has been returned.
- Seek explanations of grades after class or, better yet, during the instructor's office hours.
- Ask the instructor about his/her grading criteria.
- Keep all tests and study materials until you have received your final grade in class, in case there are disputes or mistakes.
- Most importantly, keep the lines of communication open with your instructor.
- Most instructors are willing to work with you and give you feedback if you take the initiative.