

Suggestions on how to study

When and where

Study five hours for every three hours of class time.

Study in one hour segments. Don't study for more than a few hours on a single course each day, and separate one-hour segments by a break. Study in a quiet place with no distractions.

Each week, review your notes from earlier weeks. This will help you to digest information over time. Ideally, a week with a test or an exam shouldn't be very different from any other week.

Learning the material

Start by taking notes on the textbook. Use headings similar to the ones in the textbook. In point form, summarize the key points and figures in your own words. Don't get lost in detail. Incorporate explanations and additional material from the lectures into these notes.

Learn definitions and key diagrams thoroughly. Think about the numbers in the text and figures in order to make things real and concrete. You should be able to visualize clearly many of the things described in the textbook.

Understanding the material

Read over your notes, looking for things you don't understand. Don't try to gloss over points that you find unclear. On the contrary, learn to sense when something isn't completely clear to you, and follow up on those points.

Think of questions that test your understanding. E.g., can the mean of a distribution ever be greater than the standard deviation? Can a standard deviation ever be negative? Why or why not?

Do the homework problems before looking at the solutions. Then read the solutions, and mark your answers as if you were grading a test. Read and understand the posted solutions for tests as well.

Come to the office hours to talk over things you don't understand, or talk to the professor or TA after class.