

TOP TEN SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS IN THIS (OR ANY) COURSE * From Prof. Anderson

Economics is not an easy subject to learn. Your chances of doing well in this course will be much higher if you:

1. Attend all of the lectures. There is a strong correlation between class attendance and test scores.
2. Pay attention during lectures.
3. Take lots of notes. You will need to be efficient at note-taking. Among other things, this means omitting minor words (like "the", "a", "is", etc.). Abbreviate as much as you can.
4. Rewrite your lecture notes. As you do this, pretend you are explaining the ideas to someone who has never heard of them before.
5. As you read the assigned sections of the textbook, don't highlight—studies have shown this is not an effective learning method. Instead, pause every few minutes and write out the definitions and important points you just read. It's best to try to write them from memory, without looking at them in the book.
6. But don't just memorize; you must also understand concepts.

Note: Don't rely too heavily on "common sense" for understanding economic concepts. "Common sense" is often too simplistic, and can lead to wrong conclusions. This is not only true in economics, but in most other subjects, too.

7. Do the suggested homework exercises without looking at the answers that are provided in the study guide and in handouts until after you come up with your own answers. And when your answers are wrong, try to understand why. If you can't, see suggestion 9.
8. Form a study group. Practice explaining the ideas to each other. To get started, try explaining the answers to the homework problems to each other.
9. Get help if, and as soon as, you need it. Ask me for help, or take advantage of the free tutoring that is offered by the university's Tutoring office.
10. Spend some time studying the course material every day. Don't wait until just before an exam. And while you're studying, focus only on studying for about 30 minutes at a time. Don't multitask. Economics is similar to a math class, where consistent effort really pays off.