

Learning Resource Center

Study Smarter, Not Harder

Form a Peer Study Group!

Countless educational research studies have shown that learning improves when peer studying is done right. Study groups provide an opportunity to practice and apply concepts being learned in class. Working with peers builds communication and collaboration skills, and groups can be effective both in person and virtually.

Be early. Establish a study group at the BEGINNING of the semester to get engaged with peers and start learning from each other before course assignments and exams are due.

Be bold. Introduce yourself to classmates before or after class and ask if they are interested in meeting outside of class to study together.

Be organized. Meeting as a Study Group is a social activity and should be fun, but intentional planning should be used to provide structure. Planning ahead can reduce communication challenges later and will set your group up for success. It may be helpful to have an initial meeting solely focused on planning before you begin studying together. How often are you going to meet? What do you want to accomplish? Where are you going to meet? These are important questions.

Be focused. Remember that the purpose of the Study Group is to work together when you want to benefit from the advantages of collaborative learning and prepare for assignments, quizzes, and tests. Evaluate yourself and the rest of the group to make sure these goals are staying in focus.

Be honest. The faculty instructor of your course may have special rules regarding group work on certain projects. Keep these guidelines in mind and be sure to abide by the [University of Notre Dame's Undergraduate Academic Code of Honor](#) in your group's work:

As a member of the Notre Dame community, I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to learn and abide by principles of intellectual honesty and academic integrity, and therefore I will not participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty.