

ASAP

Academic Support and Achievement Program

How to Form a Study Group

Study groups are formed to help facilitate learning in a small group environment through teaching, listening, and conveying information. With the help of peer support, study groups helps to deepen your understanding of the material in your coursework.

Who should I include in my study group?

Choose members whom you like or respect.

Try to limit the group members to a small number (6 maximum)

If you are in a class that you do not know anyone, here are some options

- Send out a mass email to your class via Blackboard suggesting a study group session for the class
- Start a facebook page for the course and post on there your interest for starting a study group
- Ask neighboring students, or ask students you see engaged in class discussion
- Inform your professors and ask them to mention study group formations in class
- Post flyers or signs in an area near the outside of the class

How do I organize my study group?

Study groups tend to have two different set-ups. Take a look at each one and decide which is best for you and your group.

Formal group:

- Assign a group leader for each session to go over material
- Have each group member assigned to prepare/present specific material
- Systemically go through the lecture powerpoints and everyone's notes and discuss what is happening in them

Informal group:

At the beginning of the session, decide what concepts/topics everyone wants to study and go over. Again, since your group is informal, you do not have to necessarily adhere to any formal way to study as long as everyones questions are covered! Here are some methods that may work for your group:

- Begin the discussion with a topic that everyone has questions about
- Individually do your own work/study and then consult each other when you have problems
- Similar to a formal group set-up, go through the lecture notes but just go with the flow. If the discussion starts to drift to separate topics within the relevant coursework, it is no problem!

Other considerations

When initially contacting your group, consider the following:

- Outline the expectations, giving students a brief outline of what you would like people to review before getting together (ie. everyone should bring their notes to share)
- Depending on your schedule, consider pre-defining consistent dates and times before inviting people to join (i.e. Tuesdays at 5pm, or outlining the upcoming 4 study group session dates you are considering)
- Inform everyone they need to make a personal commitment and to contribute to the group
- Invite students to come with their questions
- Indicate the maximum number of group members
- Identify a space your study group can meet

Select a group leader to be responsible for being in charge of the group. This is typically the individual who organizes the study sessions.

After meeting as a group, write down questions that you have for the course instructor.

Answer any questions posed to the class as a group (i.g. study guide questions, general questions asked from the class)

Order food or bring snacks to prevent your group from ending early

Suggestions for where to host your study group:

Richard M. Daley Library

The fourth floor of the library is dedicated for social interactions between students, making it the perfect level to meet with a group. The library allows reservation of study rooms which can be made.

IDEA commons in the Daley Library

The IDEA Commons has two seminar rooms available for group study. Seminar Room A fits up to 6 people and Seminar Room B fits up to 10. Similar to the rest of the main part of the library, both can be reserved at the IDEA commons front desk.

Student Center East

Pier Room by Dunkin Donuts, Inner Circle Food Court, Commuter Center, Atrium in Commons South

Other local places

Behaviors Science Building (BSB) cafe. Conveniently located near two small shops.

Off-campus locations

Places like local libraries and coffee shops serve as great places to study. I.e. Starbucks, Coffee Alley, Caribou, Panera Bread.

Academic Support & Achievement Program (ASAP)

ASAP offers a friendly, learning environment. Supplied with many services including textbooks for courses, computer usage, and tutors for most Kinesiology courses, ASAP is a great place to study with your group. Reservations for the quiet room can be made at the ASAP Front Desk. Feel free to use the bulletin board in the main room to form study groups!

ASAP does not endorse any form of cheating or plagiarism. Study groups should be created to help with the learning process, not for academic dishonesty.