



## EXAMPLE OUTLINE FOR GROUP MEETING

2-hour meeting each Thursday night:

- ◆ First half hour is spent reviewing the preceding week's concepts.
- ◆ Next hour is spent going over homework problems and/or members presenting the concepts they were assigned.
- ◆ If there are no homework problems, use the questions in the back of the book or ask the instructor for old test to use as a guide. You can also use study guides and/or PowerPoint presentations for information for discussion
- ◆ Last 10 minutes should be used for a review of what was discussed and to set the agenda and an assignment for the next meeting.



## RESOURCES

Academic Resource Center. (n.d.). How to Form a Successful Study Group: Tips and Strategies. Retrieved September 16, 2013. <http://duke.edu/arc/documents/how%20to%20form%20a%20Successful%20Study%20Group.pdf>

Mangrum-Strichart Learning Resources. (n.d.). *Study Groups*. Retrieved September 16, 2013. [how-to-study.com/study-skills/en/study-groups.asp](http://how-to-study.com/study-skills/en/study-groups.asp)

Muchnick MA, Cynthia Clumeck. (n.d.). Working with Study Partners or Study Groups. Netplaces.com. [netplaces.com/studyskills-tests-and-exam-preparation-tips/working-with-study-groups/](http://netplaces.com/studyskills-tests-and-exam-preparation-tips/working-with-study-groups/)

Study group. (n.d.). *Dictionary.com Unabridged*. Retrieved September 23, 2013, from Dictionary.com website: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/studygroup>

6 Benefits of Study Groups. (n.d.) *Debt-free Scholar-Helping college students save money, one post at a time*. Retrieved September 16, 2013.

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Compiled by  
The Counseling Center  
Gulf Coast State College  
September 2013

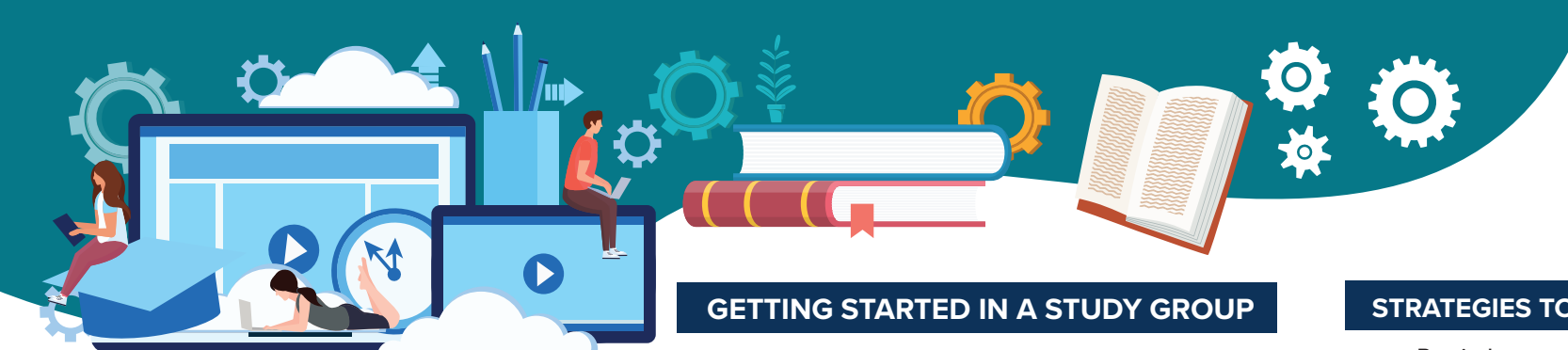
Updated: April 2015, June 2018, August 2020, January 2022, August 2024

# Pathways to College Success



# GUIDELINES FOR STUDY GROUPS





## BENEFITS OF A STUDY GROUP

- ◆ Decreases urge to procrastinate
- ◆ Presents information from a new perspective
- ◆ Fosters new study skills
- ◆ Breaks the sameness of studying alone
- ◆ Gives opportunity to compare notes
- ◆ Provides emotional support
- ◆ Increases commitment to studies
- ◆ Provides auditory learning through group discussions
- ◆ Keeps everyone on schedule
- ◆ Assistance when information is difficult

## POSSIBLE DOWNSIDES OF A STUDY GROUP

- ◆ Becomes too much of a social group and strays away from the purpose
- ◆ Becomes a "sounding board" for problems
- ◆ Domination of group by one or two members
- ◆ Too many in the group that do not contribute to the group
- ◆ Negativity brought to the group

## GETTING STARTED IN A STUDY GROUP

- ◆ Groups should have 2-6 members, more than 6 need to split up into two groups.
- ◆ Establish meeting dates, times, length and place - should be at least once a week for at least one hour, may increase before a test or finals.
- ◆ Members must have a serious commitment to participate in assignments.
- ◆ Choose a leader or facilitator of the group to keep the group on track.

## TIPS TO HAVING A SUCCESSFUL GROUP

Group members:

- ◆ Contribute to discussions
- ◆ Actively listen to each other
- ◆ Work together to resolve concerns for each other
- ◆ Stay on task
- ◆ Show respect for each other
- ◆ Ask questions and use only constructive criticisms to assist each other
- ◆ Distribute individual assignments and outline of discussion the next group session
- ◆ Maintain a positive, teamwork attitude
- ◆ Limit lengthy complaints about professors or courses

## STRATEGIES TO RUN A SUCCESSFUL GROUP

- ◆ Begin by comparing notes of the previous class meeting or meetings.
- ◆ Go over homework assignments, if applicable.
- ◆ Have an outline to guide the order of topics to discuss.
- ◆ Possibly assign a topic to each member to talk about or "teach" at the next group session; members should choose a topic they are least familiar with in order to learn more about the topic.
- ◆ Create summary sheets, flash cards, or charts and share with the group.
- ◆ Prepare a practice test to give to each member of the group.
- ◆ Use a whiteboard to assist in discussion of concepts, ideas and homework assignments.

