Academic Enhancement
in the Student Success Center

Tip of the Week

During Exams - the DETER strategy

Directions
- Read the test directions very carefully.
- Ask your instructor to explain anything about the test directions you do not understand.
- Only by following the directions can you achieve a good score on the test.
- If you do not follow the directions, you will not be able to demonstrate what you know.

Examine
- Examine the entire test to see how much you have to do.
- Only by knowing the entire task can you break it down into parts that become manageable for you.

Time
- Once you have examined the entire test, decide how much time you will spend on each item.
- If there are different points for items, plan to spend the most time on the items that count for the most points.
- Planning your time is especially important for essay tests where you must avoid spending so much time on one item that you have little time left for other test items.

Easiest
- The second E in DETER reminds you to answer the items you find easiest first.
- If you get stuck on a difficult item that comes up early in the test, you may not get to answer items that test things you know.

Review
- If you have planned your time correctly, you will have time to review your answers and make them as complete and accurate as possible.
- Also make sure to review the test directions to be certain you have answered all items required.

FINISH STRONG
Don’t worry about how fast other people finish their exams; remain positive and concentrate on your own.

The Night Before...
- Make sure you know WHEN and WHERE your exams will take place.
- Prepare a backpack or bag ahead of time.
- Eat a healthy, but light dinner.
- Get enough rest (at least 4-6 hours).
- Avoid stimulants. Don’t drink coffee or take any tablets that will prevent you from having a restful sleep.

ODU exam schedule:
https://www.odu.edu/academics/calendar/exams/fall

Missed a class? Now’s the time to get notes from friends, so you can properly organize all of the material you need to study.