

# Academic Tips



# KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY

FELLOWSHIP • LEADERSHIP • SCHOLARSHIP • SERVICE



## Our Vision

*Gamma-Rho's vision is to provide our members with a great college experience; to ensure they are career-ready; to start a lifetime of friendships; and help them have successful lives.*

- We will be a values-driven organization.
- We will be innovative and not afraid to lead.
- We will adapt as it makes sense and will collaborate with our campus & community stakeholders.
- We will focus on creating a fun and healthy environment.
- We will provide a quality living-learning environment.
- We will recruit those focused on academics, campus & chapter involvement, career-readiness, diversity & inclusion, leadership development, service and respect for differences, as well as those with a competitive spirit.
- We will on-board our members successfully, ensure our members are career-ready, and help them develop a lifetime affinity to Gamma-Rho, Kappa Sigma and the University of Arizona.

## Note Taking

- **Come to Class Prepared** – Students who come to class prepared usually take better notes. That means completing assigned reading before class and reviewing your notes from the last lecture.
- **Compare Your Notes** – Compare your notes with other students to ensure you did not forget something.
- **Minimize Distractions** – Sit in spots with less distractions if possible. Active listening is important.
- **Visual Clues** – not just handouts but facial expressions, hand & body signals that might suggest it is important.
- **Organize Your Notes** – Notes organized by date, class, and subject make it easier to locate specific lecture details. A good format to consider when taking your notes is the Cornell System for taking notes. See here: <https://www.educationcorner.com/cornell-note-taking-system.html>. In this system you divide your paper into two columns. Draw a vertical line 2 ½ inches from the left side of your paper. This is the recall column of your notes. All your lecture notes will taken in the right of this margin. Later, keywords or phrases can be written in the recall (left) column. Take notes in the note taking column. Capture ideas and concepts. Skip space so you can see you are moving to another idea. Another option to consider is the outline method: main topic, sub-headings, and supporting facts.
- **Use Abbreviations and Symbols** – Teachers cover lots of information in lecture. This makes it hard to write everything down. Use common abbreviations and symbols.
- **What Should Useful Notes have** – Key concepts & main points; examples; definitions & new vocabulary; references provided; questions on what you don't understand; and any other thoughts you have.
- **Write Clearly** – It is important to use good penmanship when taking your notes so you can read them when you review later.
- **Review Your Notes** – You will retain information best if you review your notes shortly after class and then again before the next class. Write down questions you have. Chunk similar information into categories you can remember. Transcribe key concepts into words you can understand. Write a brief summary of your notes.

## Test Preparation

- **Be Prepared** – Spend as many hours as needed to understand the materials. Plan your study time in blocks. Do not cram. Think like a teacher. Practice. Study every day if possible. Make your own study aids.
- **Stay Healthy** – Focus on your health and get regular sleep.
- **Arrive Early** – Relaxing will help with test taking.
- **Listen** – Instructions are important as sometimes the teacher might change things.
- **Memory Dump** – Write down what you think are important things while you remember them to avoid forgetting them during the test. That means write them down before you move into all the questions.
- **Read Test Directions** – Pay attention to all directions.
- **Plan Your Time** – Estimate how much time you will need for each section. Answer first things you know for sure.
- **Look for Cues** – Usually if two answers are similar, they are not correct. Look for cues from other questions. Often if the grammar in the answer does not match the question, it is wrong.
- **Answer All Questions** – Even if you do not completely answer your teacher might give partial credit.
- **Be Positive** – A positive attitude is important.
- **Rely on First Impressions** – Often your first impression is the right answer.
- **Review** – Finish your test early and then go back and review for mistakes. Focus on grammar, spelling and difficult questions.
- **Analyze** – Review how you feel after the test and decide what you might do different for the next test.

## Time Management

- **Time Management Skills That Employers Will Want to See From You** – Prioritizing, Delegation, Decision-Making, Goal Setting, Multitasking, Problem Solving, Strategic Thinking, Scheduling, Managing Appointments, Record Keeping, Meeting Deadlines, Self-Awareness, Stress Management, Teamwork, Documentation, Evaluation, Etc.
- **Understanding Prioritizing Your Time** – Urgent, Important But Can Wait, Not Important
- **Use the Priority Matrix** – Do first, do next, do later, don't do
- **Delegate Tasks** – Try to delegate tasks that others can do
- **To Do List** – Maintain a schedule of things to do and review often (but give yourself breaks); block your time
- **Be Organized** – Maintain a clean and organized study area
- **Study Time** – Know your best time to study
- **Stress** – Deal with stress how you know best
- **SMART Goals** – Specific, measurable, achievable & realistic
- **Focus** – Try to not multitask while studying; aligning your focus helps with results; consider focused efforts for 20-minutes at a time
- **Accountable** – Hold yourself accountable for results

## Tips for Academic Success

- Visit Office Hours
- Plan projects in advance
- Schedule out your window of schoolwork each day
- Planning around an 8-hour workday is recommended
- Use a calendar
- Use external and campus resources
- Find a productive study environment
- Find productive study partners
- Challenge yourself
- Attend Class
- Meet consistently with your advisor
- Make good connections with your classmates and ESPECIALLY your professor
- Prioritize sleep and health
- Take notes before lecture, not during
- Record the lecture and take notes after
- Write out goals
- Have academic accountability
- Read and know the syllabus
- Ask a friend/brother who has taken the course already
- Ask your Academic Chair for help

Some of this material is thanks to Educational Corner that appears to no longer be around, Lifehack, Princeton Review, Skills You Need, Tony Robbins, and Zety.



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