

HOW TO ENCOURAGE YOUR STUDENTS TO STUDY TOGETHER

Why students should study in groups:

- Students are more likely to use active learning strategies when studying with others, which helps them learn the course content on a deeper level
- Studying with others give students different perspectives on the material
- Students have more accountability and motivation to study on a regular basis since there are others depending on them
- Connections with others on campus is critical to students' persistence within a course and at the university

How faculty can help:

- Actively encourage students to study together and discuss the benefits of group study
- Give direct and practical suggestions, such as specific strategies to use and material to focus on
- Give time in class or create a place in your Canvas course where students can indicate their interest in studying with classmates and share contact information
 - At the beginning of the semester and again after the first test
- Import the Student Success Center "Create a Productive Study Group" video from Canvas Commons into your Canvas course
- Encourage your students to use Student Success Center services to work with others

Tips for effective study groups:

- **Keep the group small**
 - 2-5 people is ideal for giving everyone hands-on time with the material and time for individual questions
 - Small groups are easier to schedule and communicate with
- **Meet more frequently for shorter periods of time**
 - Most knowledge sharing happens within the first 30 to 60 minutes of working together, so regular sessions are more effective than one marathon session before an exam
- **Discuss expectations for the group**
 - The first time you get together, talk about how you will divide work, communicate, schedule meetings, and spend your study time
 - This helps ensure that everyone knows what they are supposed to do and that you use your time efficiently
- **Use active learning strategies**
 - Teaching someone else, quizzing each other, and talking through why an answer is correct and incorrect are some of the most effective ways to learn
 - Other active learning techniques include working practice problems, making concept maps, and creating study guides together for individual study

For more information about the Student Success Center and how we support your students, visit us online at uah.edu/ssc. Research shows that students who use the SSC are more successful, so remind your students that they don't have to do UAH alone!