Study Strategies for Success
From: Donna O. Johnson and the Guaranteed 4.0 System
The Brain Rules System
& Other Recommended Strategies for Engineering Students

1. Textbook
   a. Read it before class
   b. Make bullet point notes (don’t rewrite the text
      • Equation or major point one
      • Major point two
      • Major point three

2. Lecture Notes
   • Attend each class!
   • Print out instructor notes and bring to class. Write your notes on them!
   • Review them as soon after class as possible

3. Homework
   • After class, set-up problems
   • Correct mistakes
   • Review w/ TA
   • Study groups!
   • Student Success Center visit

4. Concept Lists
   • Write the concept (equation & definition/application)
   • Choose a good example/HW problem
   • Annotate the steps in English
   • Identify key step and why it is important in the solution

5. Test Preparation
   • Review # 1-4 every week, a few times each week. You will really learn it this way. (Just do it!)
   • Predict the topics that will be on the test. Review with TA or professor (may get a real tip!)
   • Find old exams OR make-up your own exam and practice taking the exam
     i. Choose a number of problems that will take 30 minutes total. Make it challenging.
     ii. Time yourself.
     iii. At the start, write a note to yourself which concept the exam problem covers.
     iv. Work at pace in a similar test environment (quiet, no notes, two pencils, etc.)
     v. Grade the problems (good to do with your study group). Review with SSC or TA.
     vi. Evaluate how you felt. Were you anxious? Were you comfortable? Practice each week to
         get better at performing well during an exam.

A key takeaway for effectively studying