
STUDENT STUDY GROUP INFORMATION

There is truth to the adage, “many minds are better than one,” when it applies to learning college material. Students who participate in study groups tend to develop a deeper understanding of instructional material, and they learn how to think critically and creatively about academic concepts.

WHAT IS A STUDENT STUDY GROUP ANYWAY?

Student study groups usually consist of four to six students who make a commitment to meet on a regular basis throughout the semester to discuss academic material covered in the course. It is important that all members of the group are committed to equal participation and take responsibility for being prepared for all scheduled meetings.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF JOINING A STUDENT STUDY GROUP?

Just as some individuals are more musically inclined or artistically talented than others, each study group member brings a set of strengths to the study session. One member may have strong technical skills; another member may take excellent notes, while another member may have excellent leadership skills that enable the group to stay based upon previous experiences or prior knowledge. A good study group takes advantage of its members’ strengths to enhance the learning of all members. Study group discussions enable students to gain a more thorough understanding of academic material.

HOW IS A STUDENT STUDY GROUP STRUCTURED?

The members should agree upon expectations for the group. Decide what you want to achieve during the meetings. Students may decide to review material covered during class, or they may decide to hold special review sessions prior to tests. It may be helpful to establish a format for each session that includes 15 minutes to review concepts from a prior meeting, 30 minutes to discuss concepts that members found to be difficult, and 15 minutes to discuss preparation for future tests, quizzes, or special assignments. It is useful for the group to select a leader who is willing to keep the group on task. You can even take turns sharing the role of the leader and decide if you want a different member to lead the discussion group each session.

WHAT CAN I DO TO ENSURE THAT MY STUDENT STUDY GROUP IS SUCCESSFUL?

Take some time during your first meeting to set down some ground rules for your study group. The members should also exchange contact information in case poor weather necessitates the cancellation of a meeting. A successful group consists of members who:

- ✓ Create a regular meeting schedule that adheres to strict start and end times.
- ✓ Attend all class sessions and keep up with all course assignments.
- ✓ Maintain a focus on academic concepts and don’t allow the meeting to turn into a social gathering.
- ✓ Take responsibility for contributing to the greater good of the group. In other words, each member should be willing to share the workload for participating in the group discussions.
- ✓ Compare lecture and/or lab notes and discuss any discrepancies in comprehension of the academic material.
- ✓ Ensure that everyone has a good grasp of the material being covered.
- ✓ Remind one another of the next meeting and briefly discuss what material will be covered at that time.

HOW CAN I JOIN A STUDY GROUP?

In order to determine if there are already established study groups, follow these procedures:

Step 1:

Go to the Germanna Student Study Group web page: <https://www.germanna.edu/academic-center-for-excellence/workshops-open-labs-and-study-groups/>.

Step 2:

Click on the link to the Google calendar and see if there is an existing student study group that meets at a time that is convenient for you. If so, note the day, time, and location of the meeting.

Step 3:

If there is not an existing session, there are many ways in which you can start a group. You can:

- ✓ Ask your classmates if they are interested in forming a student study group.
- ✓ Make an announcement in class or through Canvas that you are forming a student study group.
- ✓ Sign into Google Plus and post a comment on the “GCC Student Study Group” page. If you don’t already have a Google Plus account, it only takes a few minutes to create a profile. You can simply indicate that you are enrolled, for example, in Biology 101, section 22, and ask if there are other students who would like to form a student study group with you.
- ✓ Check back with Google Plus for a response, and once you have collected a few student names and email addresses, you can decide among yourselves whether you would prefer to meet on campus or off-campus.

Step 4:

There are numerous places where a student study group can meet on campus. If you are interested in meeting in one of the Library’s instructional rooms, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/GCCLibraryStudyRooms> for scheduling information.

Step 5:

Finally, don’t forget to return to the “Germanna Student Study Group Information” webpage and complete the “Student Study Group Calendar Submission” which can be accessed at: <http://tinyurl.com/GCCstudygroupsubmission>, so we can post your meeting on the Student Study Group Google Calendar.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO OUR STUDY GROUP?

Germanna Community College is committed to your academic success, and there are numerous resources available to you.

- ✓ The Academic Center for Excellence, <https://www.germanna.edu/academic-center-for-excellence>, offers numerous Helpful Handouts and Academic Links to reputable websites that may help your group understand the concepts discussed during class.
- ✓ Let your instructor know if your student study group needs some assistance.
- ✓ Review the Library’s Research Guides, <http://germanna.libguides.com/index.php>. If your student study group would like additional access to specialized resource materials, please contact a staff member in the Germanna Library.
- ✓ Check the “Workshops, Open Labs, and Study Groups” webpage for additional study group techniques and resources.

- ✓ For assistance with the formation of student study groups or room reservations, please visit this website, <http://tinyurl.com/GCCstudygroupinforequest>, submit a request for information, and a staff member will respond to your concern.