



## 10 Tips for Getting the Most out of Tutoring

Working with a tutor can help you to better understand course material. The best way to get the most out of tutoring is to be prepared for your tutoring sessions. These ten tips will show you how to prepare for and benefit from working with a tutor.

### 1. Always bring all your course materials to tutoring sessions

Course materials include the course syllabus, books, notes, exams, quizzes, homework, or other materials. Treat your tutoring sessions the same way you would treat your class in terms of what materials you bring to it.

### 2. Ask questions

It's a good idea to come to each session with questions written out for your tutor about something in the class you may be having difficulty with. These questions should be prepared prior to your session while you are taking notes, studying, or doing work for class. Make sure that your questions are specific so that your tutor can answer you and give guidance effectively.

### 3. Get to work

Learning is not a passive process, so it is important to try things out on your own and get engaged with the material. Stay active during your tutoring sessions by working through problems or practice questions. If you don't have problems to solve, ask your tutor to prepare some.

### 4. Keep the work going after your session

Learning doesn't solely take place during class time or tutoring sessions. It takes effort, energy, and practice outside of these times to reinforce and learn the material. Practice what you are working on after your tutoring sessions, just like you should be doing after class. Put some time aside to review, reinforce, and strengthen your understanding of what you're learning.

### 5. Know how you learn

There is a good chance that you and your tutor learn differently. If you don't understand what your tutor is telling you, ask if the two of you can try a different approach that is more compatible with your learning style.



## **6. Don't expect your tutor to replace your professor**

Think of tutoring as being supplemental to what you are learning in class. Your tutor is there to help you with strategies to better understand the material and retain it longer, not to re-teach material from class or give you answers to problems. Remember that your professor has office hours that you should be utilizing if you are having a really difficult time with the material.

## **7. Be patient**

Have patience with your tutor and with yourself. Since learning is a process, the material is not likely to stick with you all at once. If you find that you become anxious or frustrated by the material, try practicing some positive stress relief in the form of yoga, meditation, taking a walk, or exercising. Health Services, the Counseling Center, and the Hamel Recreation Center have many different opportunities for positive and healthy stress relief throughout the semester as well.

## **8. Stay engaged**

Although you may not be highly interested in your subject, try to find something you can connect to in what you are learning. If you're having trouble, ask your tutor to help you relate the material to something that makes sense to you. This may help you stay focused and engaged with the material.

## **9. Reduce distractions**

It is important for you and your tutor to meet in a quiet, secluded area, such as the library or a study area in an academic building, to reduce or eliminate distractions. Make sure to put away items such as your cell phone, excess materials, or anything else that draws your attention away from your work.

## **10. Get started early**

The best way to succeed in class is to stay on top of the material from the beginning. Make sure to go to class, keep up with reading and homework assignments, go to review sessions, and visit your professors and teaching assistants. Seek out a tutor as soon as you start to have difficulty with the material.