1. Go to every single class and take active notes. Highlight or circle rules/theorems and write questions in the margins to review later. Make sure you understand the lecture material before you do problems.

2. Read the textbook! Ask yourself “why do I need to know this?” and “how can I use this information?”

3. Try example problems from each section in a chapter you’re learning. If you can’t do them without looking for help, reread the section.

4. Test your knowledge by teaching material to a classmate or use a whiteboard and try teaching the material to yourself. In study groups, do problems before meeting and be ready to discuss them.

5. Do HW problems from simplest to most complex. Don’t move on to challenging problems until you understand the simpler ones.

6. Ask yourself questions when doing problems – why are you doing each step and how do you know that it’s the correct move to make? Try to anticipate what twists might show up on the exam.

7. Ask for help from MAC/professor/TA, but don’t let anyone think for you. Make sure you can think through the steps correctly on your own.

8. Prepare for your exams by pretending you’re being tested. Put your notes/book away and try to figure things out on your own without reaching out for help.

9. Create theorem/rule study guides – define it and explain why/when you would use the theorem/rule. Develop a list of general steps.

10. Schedule in excess time to complete your homework and split assignments up into smaller pieces. This way you can focus on understanding your problems without scrambling to just get them done.