Professors use final exams to evaluate student progress through the semester, to determine whether students have mastered the critical concepts, and to help determine final grades. It’s important to have a game plan going into finals week to maximize your time management and your overall semester performance.

**Know how important each final is, and what will be covered**

- Check your syllabus and Blackboard for information about the final exam/projects.
- Know what percent of your total grade the final will count for (it’s often more than a regular mid-semester exam).
- Ask each professor if the final will be cumulative (will it cover all course work for the semester) or non cumulative (e.g., includes only the information covered since the last exam).

**Start structuring your time and getting organized now**

- Put all remaining exams, assignments and finals into a calendar so you can see what’s left. If your professor hasn’t announced your final day/time, you can check the Registrar website and see if the information is there: [http://www.unh.edu/registrar/finals/final-exam.html](http://www.unh.edu/registrar/finals/final-exam.html)
- If you have three exams on the same day, contact your faculty – one of them is required to move the exam. UNH policy states that students are not required to have three finals on one day.
- Be aware of final projects, papers, assignments due between now and finals – try to get them done early to make more time to study for finals!
- If you have a light week right now, use it to get ahead on things that are due at the end of the semester.
- Make appointments with the Writing Center now – it gets busier for the rest of the semester.
- Schedule a meeting with your advisor to get your RAC for course registration now so you don’t have to track down him/her down later.
- Find reliable classmates and start doing study groups to review course material – get into a routine and stick to it through finals.
- Make sure you have all handouts/notes to study from – get them from classmates/professors if you’re missing any.
- Study locations get more crowded closer to finals. Non-traditional locations that often stay quiet include empty classrooms, MUB Entertainment Center (in the basement, room 18), and the four science libraries ([http://www.library.unh.edu/about/location.shtml](http://www.library.unh.edu/about/location.shtml))

**Attend all classes and special review sessions**

- Going to class now is especially important! Information about finals, special review sessions, grading, etc. may be discussed.
FINALS PRE-PLANNING – HOW TO PREPARE FOR FINALS
BEFORE THEY BECOME “FINAL”

Study more for classes where it’ll make the most difference

- Know your grades!
  - Check Blackboard to make sure your grades are accurate (some faculty create a Grades button in the sidebar, or look in Organization Tools → My Grades). Double check that the percentages are weighted accurately (if you don’t know how, ask an upper class student or your prof)
  - If you have concerns about your grades, email your professor right after the last exam before finals. Set up a time to meet as soon as the last exam is graded to talk about your performance. Find out what grades you’ll need on final projects/exams/etc to achieve the grade that you want. Meeting in person shows you’re serious about the class and care about your performance.
  - While you’re meeting with the prof, see if s/he has suggestions on how to study for the final.

- Decide how to study based on grades, final specifics, and course/major specifics.
  - Consider placing your greatest effort into the course(s) in which you have a borderline grade(s). In other words, would performance on the final make a difference in getting an “A-” versus a “B+”, a passing grade or a failing grade?
  - Place effort into courses that require a specific minimum grade for your major if you’re in danger of not getting that grade.