Success in Sociology
Academic Success Center
Iowa State University

Students committed to learning will find many possible paths to success. No path is error free, but the path best for you may not look like the same path as another student. For this reason, students should continuously assess their academic progress in courses and adjust their academic strategies accordingly.

While there is no magic formula, the following suggestions may improve your ability to succeed in sociology and increase your retention of knowledge.

The information was adapted from http://www.ehow.com/how_2074534_study-sociology-exam.html

Tips:

1. **Use the SQ3R method of reading:** Before you read, **Survey** the chapter. **Question** while you survey by turning the title, headings and learning objectives into questions. When you begin to **Read**, look for answers to your questions, re-read captions and study graphics. **Recite** by orally asking yourself questions after each section. **Review** is an ongoing process.

2. **While reading, pay attention to the learning objectives:** Many professors use test banks prepared by the same company that makes the student textbooks you’re required to use. These learning objectives hint at the test questions.

3. **Use different materials:** Sociology uses many different source materials such as a textbook, newspapers and online information. When reading a book, it is not advised to read a whole chapter the same way you read a novel. Before you read the book, decide why you want to use the information. Are you looking up facts or do you want to get some new ideas? As you read the book, write down any words you do not understand and research in the library or online, review with your study group or instructor. As you read, highlight and underlining key concepts that are important to you.

4. **Get started early:** Get started on any research project early and use calendar to back-task mini due dates for yourself, chunking small parts out in advance. Devote the rest of the term to studying for the midterm and final.

5. **Use study groups:** this helps you not only learn the material but to quiz each other on it too.

6. Write study notes in your own words to assist your understanding and memorizing of the material.