Learning Services

How to Get The Most From a Tutor Session

Tutoring sessions are automatically set at an hour because a solid hour of work can be exhausting. If you go too long, the returns on your work will diminish meaning you'll get less from your time. As a result, it's important that you as a student do what you can to help the tutor help you, so you can get the most out of your session.

Prepare for your Session

• See the Handout *How to Prep for a Tutoring Session* - your preparation will make a big difference in the efficiency and effectiveness of your session.

• Be Proactive

- **Don't just wait for the tutor to explain** be an active participant. Ask questions. Offer your understanding. Seek clarification if you're still unsure.
- Provide Feedback tutors are good, but they can't read minds. If an explanation doesn't make sense, or you're still not sure, say something. Ask the tutor, "can you explain that in a different way," or "can you give me an example?" If you don't speak up, your tutor will think you're ready for the next topic.

Bring Practice Problems

• **Tutors aren't homework helpers** - they can work through other examples with you though. More practice can help you really understand the material.

Focus on Understanding

 Professors have high expectations - knowing facts and information is important and it will be tested. Application will also be tested. To apply and use concepts, you'll need to understand them, which means knowing the "why" or "how" behind the concepts.

• Take or Add to Your Notes

 Knowledge is power - write down the explanations that make sense to you. Connect what you are learning to the material you already have. Make sure to record key concepts. Your tutor may also offer suggestions for how to study or what the professor emphasizes when testing. WRITE IT DOWN so you can benefit from it later.

<u>Review After the Session</u>

 Go back over the material later - tutoring sessions can be very helpful, but you'll likely need more study-time. Once you have a good understanding of the material, utilize it independently. Don't be surprised if the tutor gives you a "homework" assignment to do that. Especially if you meet weekly. Review often so you're not scrambling before an exam.

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