



## Tips for Success in Biology

- **Go to every class!**
- Prepare for class by **previewing the assigned readings**.
- Pay particular attention to the **bold words** or **main concepts** listed in the textbook.
- **Check information in the notes against the textbook.**
- **Pay particular attention to the illustrations and examples** given in the textbook and to those discussed in class.
- **Review lecture notes within 24 hours of class.** After 24 hours, you will lose from memory 60% to 70% of what you heard in class.
- **Read and review material in the text that relates to the lecture notes.** Look at and answer the review questions at the end of each chapter.
- **Use a study group or a study partner** at least occasionally. Discussing information with others will help reinforce what you have learned. Also, other students may be able to explain things about which you are unclear.
- **Use a course organizer** to keep track of due dates and grades on various tasks. You will always know where you stand.
- **Use flash cards.** They are used to organize information such as terms, definitions, people and their contributions, lists, identifying characteristics, and structures.
- **Frequently visit course and textbook websites** to review information, take practice quizzes and tests, and prepare for exams.
- Remember that to be successful on biology tests, **you must recall detailed information**, not just recognize concepts.
- To practice for the test, **make up questions using chapter headings** in the textbook.
- As soon as you get the test, **dump all the information you think you might forget** or confuse while taking the test. Write down numerical data such as percentages and dates, the names of people, figures or drawings, and other information you may forget.
- **Prepare for each lab** by reading the procedure before class.
- **Make use of the entire lab.** Resist the temptation to leave early. Utilize all available open lab hours.
- If you have questions, **visit your professor during his/her office hours.** Professors usually welcome questions.

Please note: This information is compiled in conjunction with the Biology & Microbiology Department.