



Semester Strong




You did it! You survived your first semester of all-nighters, pop quizzes, random roommates, living on your own, and so much more.

A tale of caution...don't let yourself think that since Christmas break is in sight that you can start slacking off. This is actually the most important part of the semester. To end with solid final grades, make sure your hard work is worth it, and ensure that you've retained everything you learned this semester, you should strive to finish your semester strong.



Figure Out Your Exam Schedule

This may seem obvious but finals are not on the same schedule as your classes. The times for finals can generally be found in your class syllabus or on your school's website under the semester's official calendar. Make sure that you write down your final exams in your calendar.



Make a Study Schedule for Your Exams

The end of the semester does come with a lot of fun and exciting things, but ending your classes well is the most important and should be the main focus of each day. Go ahead and write down times in which you plan to study and finish assignments for each of your classes. You will have less anxiety about being ready for your exams because you have a game plan.



Don't Do It Alone

You're surrounded by others who also need to study and are feeling the weight of finals. Find a friend, roommate, or classmate and quiz each other on your study guides. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Your classmates are right alongside you through these last few stressful days, so work together towards success!



Make Sure All of Your Tech Works

Now is not the time that you want your computer to crash. You have notes, papers and projects all saved on there. If you worry that there is any type of issue with your computer, make sure to stay on top of it and be prepared to make other arrangements to complete your assignments and study for your finals.



Don't Forget About Your Textbooks

If you have rented textbooks at the start of the semester, you have to return them or be charged an overdue fee. Also, many students find they can sell textbooks they bought and get some money back, but don't expect it to be as much money. Bookstores typically buy back used books for students to resell the next semester. Some books you may want to keep for personal use for your major. However, it is easy to forget in the rush to get home for break.



Don't Wait Last Minute to Pack

Procrastinating will only increase your stress! You will probably want to spend your last nights of the semester hanging out with friends instead of frantically packing.



Clean Before Leaving School

In the stress of finals and rush to get home for the holidays, it is easy to let cleanliness go. Remember usually winter breaks lasts a few weeks so your dirty dishes, perishable foods, and overflowing trash are going to be a lot worse after a break if you don't take care of them before leaving.



Thank Your Professors

This may sound odd, but thank your professors. If you have had an amazing professor who really positively affected your semester, let them know. Going out of your way to thank them is a great way to begin making contacts for good academic references. You never know when you might need a reference or recommendation for a job, scholarship, program, or leadership opportunity.



Eat, Drink and Sleep

The most important thing is to remember to eat, drink and sleep. Staying physically and mentally strong will definitely help you stay present while you study and take tests. Your health is the most important thing, so take care of yourself. Go to bed early so you can wake up refreshed and ready for each day's challenges. Set yourself up for success by doing these things one day at a time.



Go ahead and start now! It's never too soon to start studying. It may seem tedious and there are a lot of other things that you would rather do. However, it takes a lot less time to study in small increments than it does to cram the night or week of finals. Study a chapter a day up until finals or write your paper by a section a day. This will help prevent stress and give you more time to absorb the information.