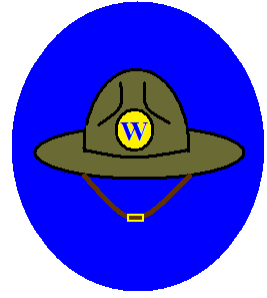


College Boot Camp



Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently. Henry Ford

Biology and Chemistry Exam Strategies: How to Take Exams in the Allotted Time

- 1) Read the Directions.
- 2) Keep your eyes on your own exam.
- 3) Read through the exam once over; use “skimming” techniques.
- 4) Answer the questions that you know right away.
- 5) Use your scratch paper systematically, i.e., don’t start in one corner for one problem, turn the paper to another corner, turn the paper to another corner, turn the paper to another corner and box yourself in to the center of the scratch paper. Use your scratch paper like you would when you’re working out a homework problem for turn-in – that’s really all an exam is: homework under classroom conditions, demonstrating what you have learned within a fixed period of time.
- 6) If you **MUST** go back over an exam, sit on your hands if you’re one of the students who changes answers. Research is very clear that if you don’t know the answer to the question, leave it with your first instinct. Additionally, the Scantron machines at WNC are very old and may not catch that you erased; to maintain mechanical integrity and objectivity, the professor for the course does not go back over the Scantron results to see if erasure marks were caught or not.
- 7) You have more than enough time in which to complete the exam – wear a watch, pay attention to the time, when you get to a question that is taking up most of your time, skip it and move on to the next question. Come back to the question once you have completed the remainder of the exam.
- 8) Sit quietly at your desk until the exam is over, then follow the instructions your professor provides for turning in the exam.