



# Blaze the Builder

Constructing an  
Academic Toolkit



# Blazers' Academic Toolkit

Campus Resources

Time  
Management

Attendance

Environment

Note-Taking Skills

ALEKs

Graphing  
Calculators

Time Management  
Campus Resources  
Attendance  
Environment  
Note-Taking Skills  
ALEKs  
Graphing Calculators

# ATTENDANCE



*Learning is progressive*

*Make connections with concepts*

*Increases comprehension*

*Increases probability of passing*

You can't learn and comprehend the material if you do not attend class.

If you are going to be absent, please send an e-mail to your instructor explaining your absence.

If you went to the doctor/student health, attach the doctor's note to your e-mail.



# Time Management

Review notes daily or 2/3xs a week

Create a to-do list

Prioritize tasks

Avoid distractions

Do as much as you can before dinner



Use your time wisely!

Review notes daily or 2/3xs a week

Create a to-do list

Prioritize tasks

Avoid distractions - no phones

Do as much as you can before dinner

# Environment



1



2



On the Nearpod, students will answer a Poll question: In which environment do you prefer to study?

After receiving responses, elaborate on the importance of an effective study space.

Your environment dictates how productive your studying will be.

Avoid studying in spaces of comfort and relaxation.

Designate an area in your home, or utilize spaces on campus to increase focus & encourage a productive study session.



# Note-Taking

Remember the worksheets & homework in K-12 school?

The redundancy of working with the same information increased your comprehension and ability to recall.

*You need to increase how often you are interacting with your notes.*



Click through the slides on the left side

Remember the worksheets & homework in K-12 school?

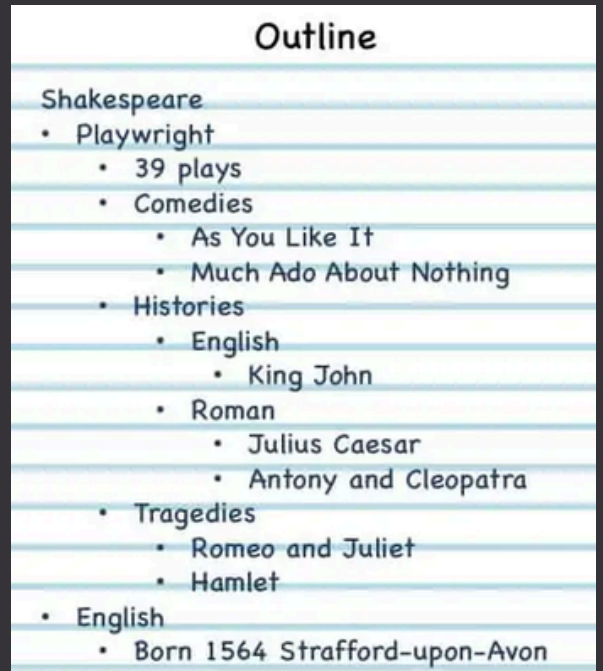
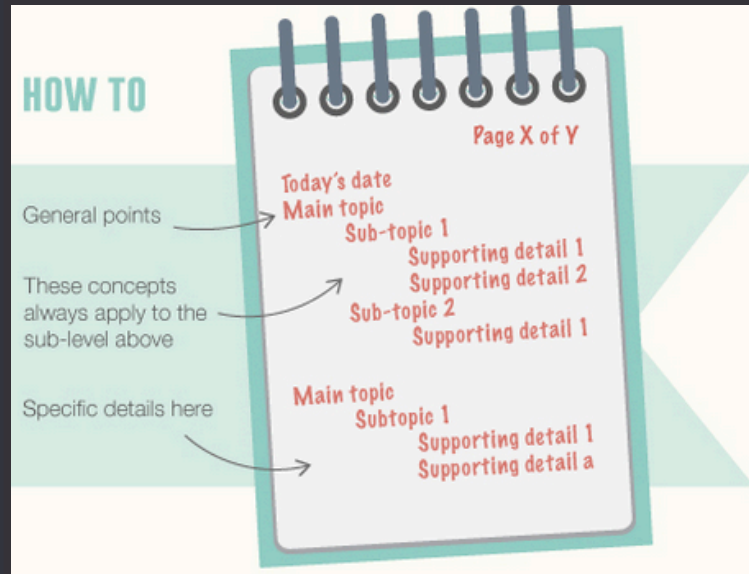
The redundancy of working with the same information increased your comprehension and ability to recall.

You need to increase how often you are interacting with your notes.

The next few slides will include a variety of note-taking examples.

In the Nearpod, students will interact by clicking through carousel of slides on the left side of their screen.

# Note Outline



Carousel slide #2

Benefits of outlines

1. Emphasizes relationships:

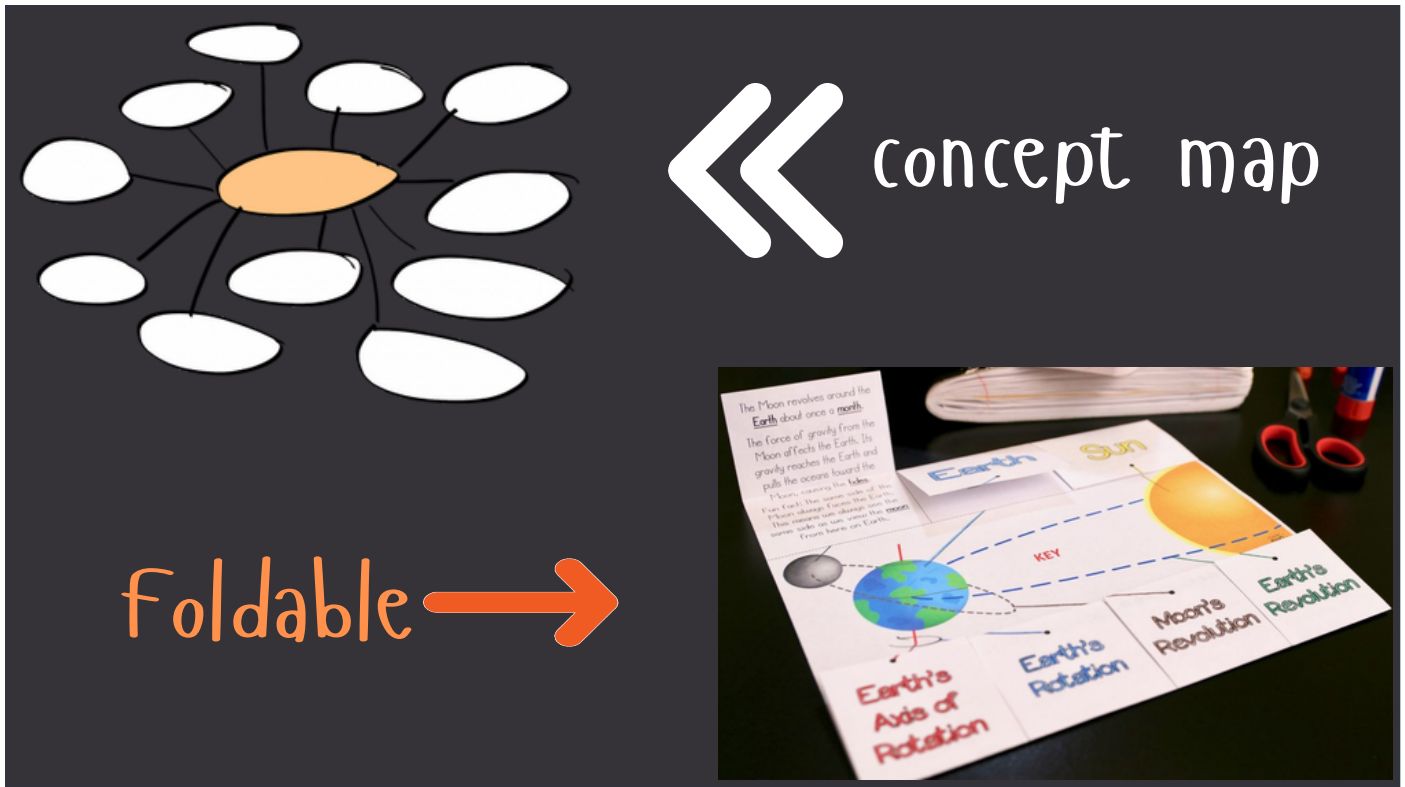
The method can help you identify connections between points and sub-points.

2. Improves learning:

As you create an outline, you're actively engaged with the material, which can speed up the learning process.

3. Easier to recall:

You might find it easier to remember ideas later by visualizing where you placed them in your outline.



Carousel slide #3

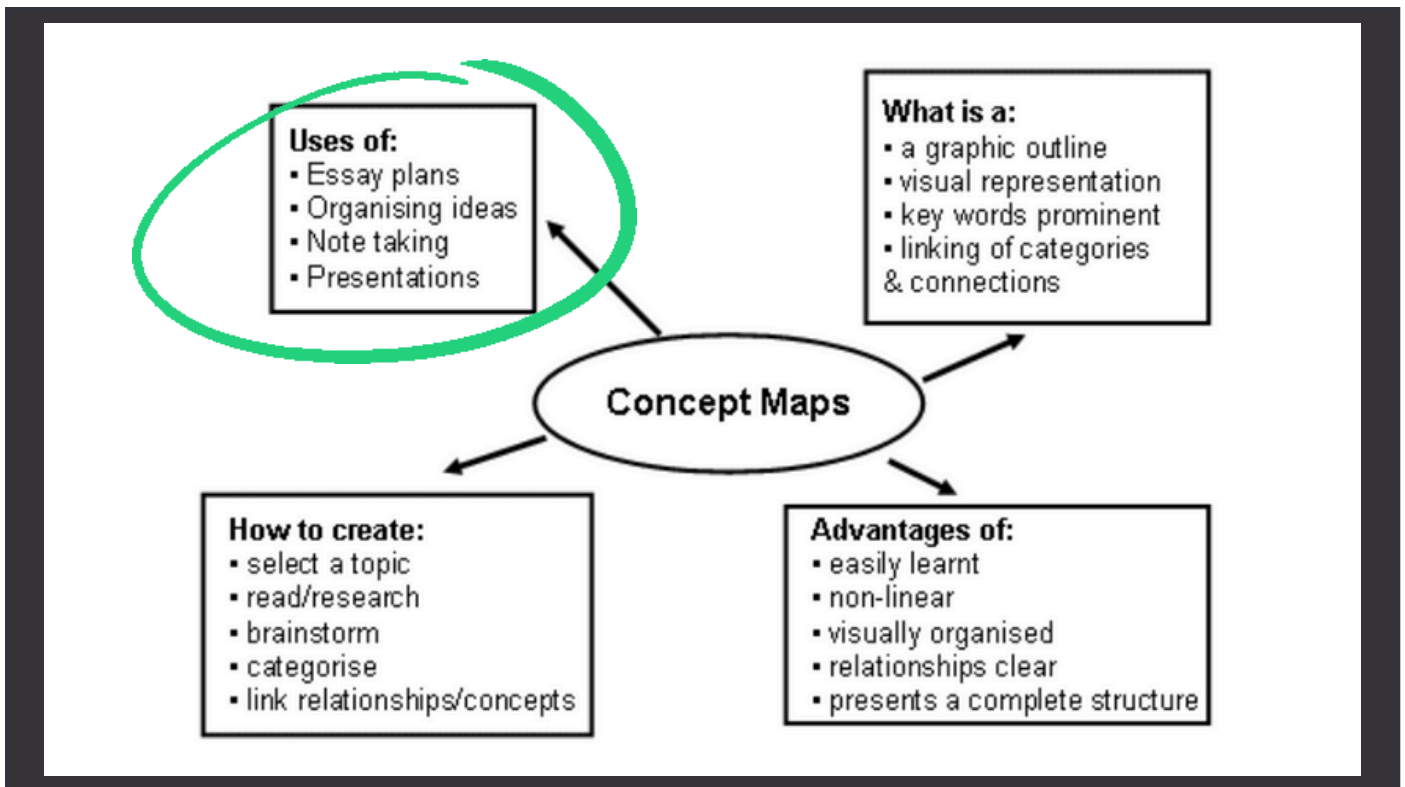
### Concept Maps

- the visual will help you recall information

### Foldables

- kinesthetic tool for organizing information
- help students focus on key concepts
- the visual will help you recall information





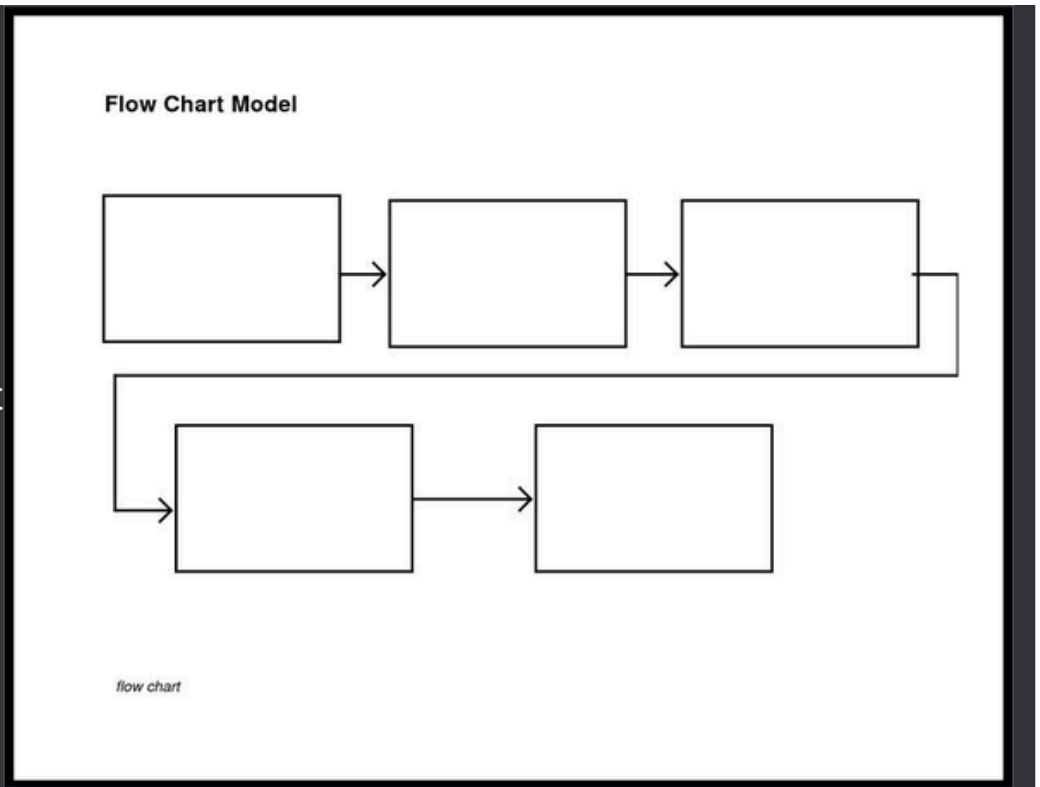
Carousel slide #4

### Concept Maps

- make connections by chunking the information
- show gaps in learning (you can pinpoint areas where you are unclear in the learning - ask for help from your instructor or seek help from a tutor)

Used for:

- Chronology
- cause & effect
- processes

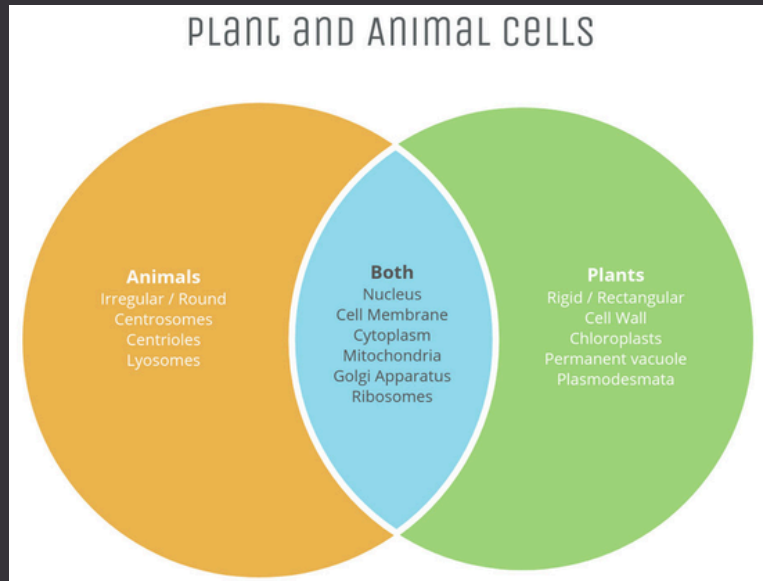


Carousel slide #5

Used for:

- Chronology
- cause & effect
- processes

# Venn Diagram



Used to compare and contrast two different objects or ideas

Examples:

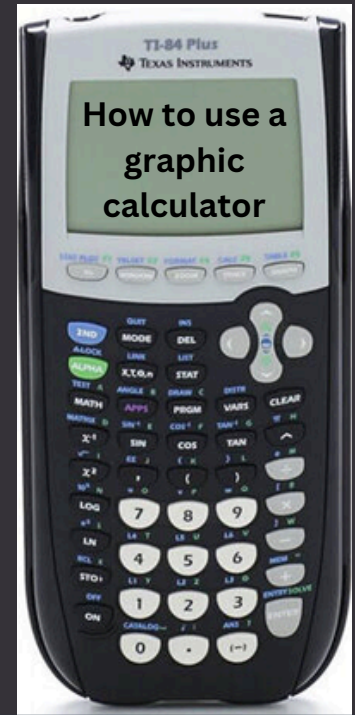
- WWI vs WWII
- Before & After Reconstruction
- negative vs positive integers
- low-pressure system vs high pressure system
- animal cell vs plant cell
- mitosis vs meiosis

Carousel slide #6

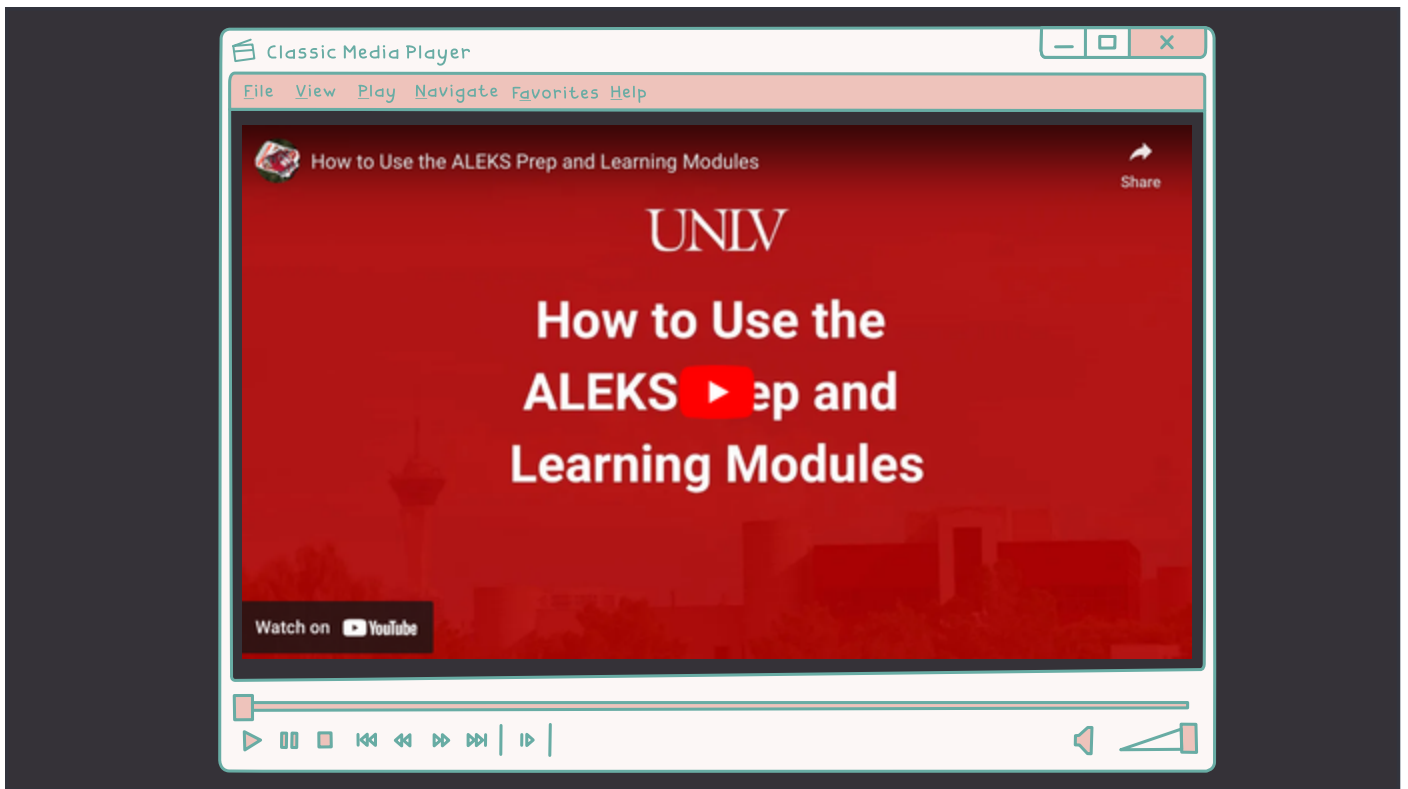
Used to compare and contrast two different objects or ideas

Examples:

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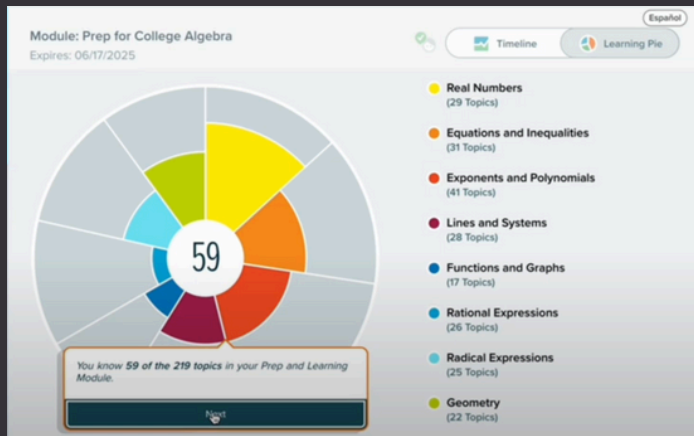


Watch this video to understand basic functions of the graphic calculator.



Watching this video will improve your utilization of ALEKs.

# Working in Aleks



To sustain interest:

**Complete subject areas with the most topics first**

- Learn the topic
- Prove mastery
- Use a notebook
- Pay attention to details
- Don't use the "I do not know" button

To sustain interest:

Complete subject areas with the most topics first

Learn the topic: Study, practice, and understand the topic. ALEKS will credit you for learning a topic when you answer several practice problems correctly.

Keep track of the progression bar at the top of the screen to motivate and increase your endurance.

Prove mastery: Demonstrate that you understand the topic and can do a practice problem without help. ALEKS will credit you for mastering a topic when you answer a practice problem on an ALEKS Knowledge Check without help.

Use a notebook: Take notes while working in ALEKS

Pay attention to details: Don't rush through the work.

Don't use the "I do not know" button: Try your best to answer the questions without using this option

# Online Resources

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF STUDENT SUCCESS AND RETENTION

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY / ADMINISTRATION / ENROLLMENT-STUDENT AFFAIRS / OFFICE OF STUDENT SUCCESS AND RETENTION / [STUDENT SUCCESS COACHING](#)

Our Student Success Coaches are ready to meet with you to develop a plan for academic success. Coaching involves reviewing your current academic habits and learning new ones to add to your toolkit. We are here to support you as you navigate your academic path.

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A SUCCESS COACH BY CALLING  
(229)-333-7572 OR (229)-333-7570.

**STUDY RESOURCES (FLASHCARDS, GAMES, PRACTICE & MORE)**

- Quizlet
- Chegg
- Mathway
- Symbolab
- Brainly
- Kahoot
- StudyStack
- Anki
- Brainscape

**PRODUCTIVITY & FOCUSING**

- Study Playlists
- Tomato Timer
- Helpful Videos

**READ ALOUD**

- NaturalReader
- Speechify

Office of Student Success and Retention

Our Team

Orientation & Family Programs

Helpful Videos

Academic Support Center

Contact Us

[Student Success Coaching](#)

**OFFICE OF STUDENT SUCCESS AND RETENTION**

Odum Library Room 2621  
Phone: 229.333.7570  
Mon-Thur: 8am - 5:30pm  
Fri: 8am - 3pm

Here are a few online resources we've compiled on our website.

1. Go to valdosta.edu
2. Click on the magnifying glass in the top right corner
3. In the search engine, type "Office of Student Success & Retention"
4. Select one of the links provided by the search

# Utilize Campus Resources

**Study Groups**

**Book 1-on-1 and group  
tutoring sessions through  
Knack**

**Success Coaching**



To enhance your study session, or if you need additional help, please utilize campus resources

- in-person tutoring
- study groups



## RECAP

- ✓ Attend class
- ✓ Take good notes & keep them organized
- ✓ Review notes daily
- ✓ Study in a productive environment
- ✓ Study for 15-20min & take a break.  
Repeat
- ✓ Manage time wisely - DO NOT CRAM!

Attend class regularly

Take notes during class & keep them organized

Look over your as often as possible

Study in a conducive space

Don't overwhelm your brain by studying for long periods of time without a break.

Manage time wisely - reduce procrastination



Are there any questions?

Please click the survey link at the top of the screen and complete the questions.