Learning Styles – Aural / Auditory Learners

Auditory Learners learn best when they hear information; thus they tend to prefer listening, verbalizing and discussing new knowledge. When learning information, some auditory learners favor listening to tapes or CDs, or talking aloud to themselves or others.

General Study Tips

- Study in groups and talk things out. You can also do this by working with a peer tutor and discussing the main concepts of each class.
- Reduce lecture notes to main ideas (3:1) and record the main concepts on your phone.
- Listen to recorded version of lectures or notes while driving.
- Chose a study location where you can talk out loud to yourself as you study.
- Have a friend read your notes a loud to you.
- If you are distracted by ambient noise, use a pair of earplugs while studying.

Time Management Strategies

- Request auditory reminders from a roommate or family member.
- When studying, use a kitchen timer to alert you when it is time for you to take a study break as well as when it is time to start studying again.

Listening and Note-taking Strategies

- Participate in class by asking and answering questions. For online courses be an active participant in online discussions.
- Because you prefer to listen, your lecture notes may be incomplete. Use a Livescribe smartpen when taking notes. Pen records and syncs with your lecture notes, allowing a student to go back and re-listen to a specific part of the notes.
- Review main concepts with a classmate shortly after each lecture.
- When reviewing your notes, recite them aloud. Make a recording of this and listen to it when you are in your car.
- Teach others, this will clarify information and reinforce what you know.

Reading and Study Strategies

- Especially for complex information, heighten your comprehension by talking aloud as you read so that you can hear yourself.
- Class lectures and discussion are often your strength, so use class information as a basis for understanding the text. Review class notes prior to reading textbook.
- Use audio versions on your textbooks from the publisher if available.

Memory Strategies

- Create a catchy rhythm, jingle or song as a memory technique.
- To remember steps in a process, describe each step aloud.

Source: College Study The Essential Ingredients, Second Edition by Sally A. Lipsky, 2008. Pearson Education, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, 07458.