Advice for Managing Midterm Week

You’ve all experienced one midterm week at Princeton by now. But, if you’re anything like us, you like to pretend it’s all a rather bad memory.

We thought this would be a good time to go over the best tips you got the first time around, and we asked Dean Herschbach for her advice. Here’s what she offered us.

Pace yourself!
Midterms typically take place over a full week. Don’t stay up all night studying for an exam on Monday since you’ll then be in recovery for the rest of the week.

There’s no guarantee that cramming will deliver a better grade than adequate sleep, nourishment, and exercise; and don’t neglect après-exam relaxation. The earlier you begin preparing, the easier it will be to manage the demands of several tests in a row. Start now!

Remember that exam questions are different from other types of class assignments.
Exam questions are designed to make you think synthetically, apply concepts, and manipulate information. They are often qualitatively different from other term-time assignments like problem sets or short essays, where the purpose is simply to rehearse a single concept or understand a particular argument.

The best way to study for exams is to practice responding to actual exam questions. Copies of old exams are usually available on course Blackboard sites or from teaching staff. Use them!

Make sure to fully utilize campus resources.
Attend review sessions and study groups; if you have questions about course content or expectations for an exam, don’t be shy -- ask your preceptors and professors; talk to a study skills consultant at the McGraw Center about how to effectively study for exams and manage your midterm schedule.

Keep things in perspective.
There will come a day when you don’t do as well as you hoped on a midterm exam. Take a deep breath and remind yourself that a midterm grade, in general, represents a relatively small fraction of the final grade. You will be able to recoup a poor midterm grade, especially if you are careful to learn from any mistakes.

Good luck!
Announcements from the College Office

Food comes first.
Late Night Snacks will be held in Wu through the end of the semester. Wilcox Dining Hall closes on March 11 after dinner. On March 13, all dining halls except Rocky close for Spring Break.

And from Campus Rec…
A NEW IM EVENT presented by Campus Rec and Outdoor Action
When: 3/11
What: Climbing Event at the Rock Wall. Sign up in teams (all skill levels).
From Jess Ward, Campus Rec: “Your team will climb different routes and earn as many points as they can in 30 minutes. Your team can sign up for the time slot they wish to climb, and if you pre-register by Mon, March 9th, your team will earn 50 bonus points. All climbers will receive IM Points for participating and the winners will receive IM Champion T-shirts.”

So, maybe it’s too late to be Captain Preview, but there’s nothing stopping you from being another superhero (aside from scheduling conflicts, that is). You don’t need to wear spandex for this one, either. In fact, we’d very much prefer that you didn’t. It might even go against the job description, if you manage to scare the pre-frosh away.

In the words of Dr. Olin:
“Pre-frosh hosts needed! Save helpless pre-frosh from attending a school other than Princeton. Hosts are needed for the two Princeton Preview weekends, April 16-18 and April 23-25. Go to http://web.princeton.edu/sites/hosting/ to sign up!”

NEED A QUIET PLACE TO STUDY THIS WEEK?
Everyone needs a bit of peace and quiet while preparing for exams. It’s considerably harder to get this during midterms week, when classes are still in session. So here’s a list taken from the college website of places you should check out if you just need to get away.

For that last-minute paper, computer clusters are in 1937 and Wilcox.

There’s also a lovely conference room in the second entryway of 1937, for those larger study groups. Wilcox Commons is always open (and unlikely to be that loud during midterm week), as are the two seminar rooms on the second floor of Wilcox.

And lastly, everyone’s favorite place (to study, at least)…J-Street.

A Tip from Greening Princeton
If the average American were to reduce meat consumption by just 20 percent, that would be the equivalent of switching from driving a Camry to a Prius.

Contact us
Questions, comments, contributions?
Email us: dityadas@princeton.edu and bwilkins@princeton.edu

PBDC hosts Clover Ball this weekend
The Princeton Ballroom Dance Club is hosting the Clover Ball on Saturday, March 7th, in Dillon Gym, from 9 PM - 11 PM. There will be a beginner lesson from 9-10, and a showcase by team members and Henri Velandia at 10:30. Free with PUID, $5 for non-princeton students, $15 other.

A CORRECTION:
The WILSON COLLEGE CERAMICS STUDIO is open in the basement of 1938 Hall, Mondays, 7-10 pm Tuesdays, 8-11 pm Fridays, 2-5 pm Sundays, 12-4 pm On Mondays, visiting potter Candy Shweder will be teaching (excluding 3/16, 3/30). Contact Andrew Sue-Ako (asue@princeton.edu) or Heather Landry (hlandry@princeton.edu) with questions.