What’s Your Learning Style?

Understanding your preferred learning style will help you study more efficiently and effectively. You can determine your learning style by taking the Quick-Start Learning Styles Inventory below.

Quick-Start Learning Styles Inventory

**QUESTION 1: Preferred Learning Modality**

*When learning new information, are you a/an:*

- **Visual Learner** because you like to read your textbook or other course-related material.
- **Auditory Learner** because you like to listen to a lecture or have someone explain it to you.
- **Active Learner** because you like to learn by constructing a model, solving problems, etc.

**QUESTION 2: Individual or Group Work**

*When studying, you prefer to:*

- Work alone.
- Work in small groups.

**QUESTION 3: Examples or Big Picture**

*When introduced to new information, do you prefer to:*

- Examine the big picture or main idea before considering specific examples.
- Think about examples that then lead to the big picture or main idea.

Want to know more about making the most of your learning style? Schedule an individual consultation with a staff member in Academic Resources by calling 216-368-3478.

Reviewing the Results

**Visual Learners**

⇒ Read the textbook before class.
⇒ Highlight lecture notes after class.
⇒ Add reading notes, summary sheets, arrows, diagrams.

**Auditory Learners**

⇒ Skim the textbook before class; then follow up after class with more in-depth reading.
⇒ Study lecture and reading notes by “talking” through the information or by discussing the material with a study group or tutor.

**Active Learners**

⇒ Work with a study group to develop summary/review sheets when preparing for an exam.
⇒ Underline and take marginal notes when reading.

**Individual Study or Small Group Work**

While you may prefer working alone, participating in a small group project or forming a study group has certain advantages.

*Small Groups Can:*

- Help you master difficult material.
- Motivate you to study when you feel frustrated with a course.
- Divide up the work of preparing review sheets for exams.
- Prepare you for collaborative work that you’ll do in your professional career.

*Big Picture or Examples*

Professors use their preferred learning style when presenting course material. If you’re having difficulty understanding a professor’s lectures, it may be that your learning style doesn’t match the professor’s style. For instance, you may be expecting the big picture in a lecture while your professor introduces new material through examples.