

the New Leaf

Finals in the Testing Center: Tips and Tricks

As finals approach, the staff here at the Testing Center want to share important tips and tricks to help you have the smoothest testing experience possible.

- *Make sure to have a photo ID with you each time you come to test. No ID? No test.*
- *Make sure to communicate with your instructor(s) if you want to test in the Testing Center. They have to do some behind-the-scenes work to make that happen.*
- *Make sure to verify what materials are allowed for your exam. We will follow what instructors tell us.*
- *If you need a due date extension, your instructor must contact us before you can test. We can't administer an exam without their permission.*
- *Make sure to give yourself the full allotted time for your exam, even if you know you can finish it sooner. Even though Testing Center staff works hard to make sure that you can test without complications, some circumstances are out of our control. Giving yourself the full testing time helps to account for the unexpected.*
- *Remember, you know what you know and you know what you don't! If you get stuck on a question while testing, mark it for review and finish the exam. Then go back and review the questions you marked. It's better to finish your exam than to worry about one question and run out of time.*
- *When you feel like you're becoming stressed, close your eyes and take a deep breath to calm yourself. You've got this!*
- *Make sure to get plenty of rest and eat a well-balanced meal before testing. This will help your brain to function well.*

School's Out! Now What?

With the pressure of classes finally lifted, the amount of free time can seem a little overwhelming. All the way from summer activities to preparing for next semester, we've got a couple of suggestions!

Looking for Things to Do?

St. Louis is never short on really cool things to do, so take a look at an event calendar and find an event for you!

- *The Cardinals take on the Cubs (June 2nd)*
- *"Pompeii: The Exhibition" at the St. Louis Science Center (Opens May 17th!)*
- *St Louis has a bunch of concerts this summer! From artists such as Rascal Flatts (May 17th) or Ariana Grande (July 6th)!*

Transferring Soon?

Get things in check now! The longer you wait, the more cramming (and stress!) you'll have to deal with.

- *Schedule a visit to a few universities and meet with an advisor*
- *Send official copies of transcripts to schools where you applied*
- *Use (or make) a checklist of things to prepare for*
- *Lots of schools use "admitted student checklists" to let you know what the school still needs from you in order for smooth transfer.*

Want to Get Ahead?

ECC offers summer classes! These are a great opportunity to get ahead in your education, all without overwhelming yourself in the fall semester! Just a few of the classes we offer are:

- *College Algebra*
- *Marriage & Family*
- *Technical Writing*
- *Art Appreciation*

And so many more! Make an appointment with your advisor to sign up for classes today!

Six Tips for Success in Online Courses

Summer is a great time to take an online course! Because you can work from anywhere, vacations, beach days, or even camping trips (Meramec has wi-fi for campers!) are no problem. Here are some tips to get you off on the right foot:

1. *Communication is key to online classes. Don't be afraid to reach out to an instructor, but be sure you check Moodle and the syllabus first. Communicate about assignments well ahead of the deadline so your instructor has plenty of time to respond.*
2. *With #1 in mind, know your instructor's contact policy. Some instructors may not respond to emails for 24-48 hours. Some may respond quickly to texts. Some instructors provide their office phone, but they will barely be in their office all summer. Do your research and ask if necessary.*
3. *Assume you will have technical problems on days when important assignments are due. Planning ahead will save your sanity!*
4. *Schedule "class time" for yourself every week. Although you won't be driving to class, it's best to schedule blocks of time each week for your classwork. It is easy to put off online coursework. Don't fall into that trap.*
5. *Check grades often and clarify any questions as they come up, not just at the end of the semester, when it will be difficult for your instructor to help you.*
6. *For essay questions, forum posts, and papers, DO NOT compose in the text boxes provided. Open a Word document to write. Save often on your computer. Check for errors. Then, copy and paste your answer in the text box provided. Using Word, you don't risk losing all of your hard work if you have a problem with Moodle.*

Success in online courses is all about planning and communication. Best wishes for a rewarding online experience!

Math Finals Made Easy

1. When is your final?

Look at www.eastcentral.edu/registrar/final-exam-schedules/ to find out.

2. Start reviewing NOW!

Even if you are reading this at the beginning of the semester, you can already start preparing for the final.

- *Print out review guide from the website: www.eastcentral.edu/science/mathematics/*
- *Know when review sessions are being held in the Learning Center.*
- *138 questions on the review - 26 days \approx 5 problems per day in addition to extra practice and current homework.*
- *Set aside a NON-NEGOTIABLE time every day to practice. Put it in your calendar, planner, or phone. If something tries to interfere-say no. You WILL need more time to prepare for finals.*
- *Talk to your family and work about the time you will need to review for finals.*

3. Identify the problems you KNOW WELL. Review, but focus on other areas.

4. Identify the problems you understand but HAVE NOT MASTERED. Review these until you can consistently get them right. That means find the section in the textbook and work extra problems.

5. Identify the problems you struggle with or DO NOT KNOW. Get help to understand them and work to move them to category B or even better A. Work extra problems after getting help. Most of your time should be spent on these type of problems.

6. Identify how questions may be asked.

Math Review Session Schedule

The Learning Center's math review sessions have increased student pass rates and grades for the past seven years.

Join us for one, and see the results for yourself.

	5/3	5/6	5/7
Pre-Algebra	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	
Introductory Algebra	10:00 AM	12:00 PM	
Intermediate Algebra	1:00 PM		
College Algebra	9:00 AM	1:00 PM	
Fundamentals of Math	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	
Contemporary Math	12:00 PM		12:30 PM
Statistics		10:00 AM	9:00 AM

Farewell to Our Student Tutors

Au revoir, adieu, adios, arrivederci, auf wiedersehen, aloha, sayonara ...no matter how you say it, goodbyes are hard. No matter how many years I have had to do it, knowing what I know, it is still hard to say goodbye to my staff of student tutors. This year is no exception. I have had the honor these past few semesters to watch this group of students laugh, grow, share, and mentor each other and our students. There is not a day that goes by that I don't leave my office and see my tutors and staff engaged in laughter and conversation. I believe their ability to enjoy work translates into the work they do. I only hope they carry this laughter and passion with them after they leave ECC and share this with their peers as well.

Kori Fiedler does it ALL! Kori plays softball for ECC, Education major (which encompasses a lot), and a peer tutor! She was nominated as an Outstanding Student, plus is just an all-around nice person. Kori will be leaving us after graduation in a couple weeks to head to Missouri State University. She will continue to pursue her Education degree. Kori states the best part of being a tutor "is all of the experience I have gained, especially since I am going into the Education field."

Abbey Hook has the coolest hair of anyone I have ever met. If her hair is an indication of her personality, I'd say she is strong, self-assured, bright, and spirited. I will miss her presence in our center. Abbey will be traveling to SEMO this fall to complete her secondary English education major. Here's what Abbey had to say about what she liked best about tutoring, "It sounds cheesy, but there have been so many great things this job has taught me. I have learned how to better communicate with my peers, become a stronger reader and writer, and be able to help students transform their writing. This job was a really great idea of what my future job as a teacher will sort of entail, with all the paper reading and commenting."

Curtis Brinker has been one of my most reliable tutors. Curtis is currently a pre-engineering major, but his goals to pursue a major in Computer Science and minor in Mathematics from Missouri S&T this fall. I have no doubts he will accomplish whatever he sets out to do. I get a kick out of the interactions Curtis has with some of our other tutors, especially the conversations about astrology. When I asked Curtis what he thought was best about tutoring, he stated, "Having a chance to sit down with someone who is having trouble with a topic and help them understand the problems they are working. The student can make a large amount of progress in a short amount of time with just a little bit of guidance from the tutor."

William Misener or Tell as everyone in the Learning Center calls him is as energetic and passionate as anyone I know. He is full of historical knowledge about some of the most random things, and he really brings character to our team! William will be finishing up his degree over the summer then has plans to join the United States Marine Corps. Godspeed, William! Tell stated that his favorite part about his job was the personal growth: "I am better at writing and communicating than I used to be; and I feel a burst of self-confidence whenever I help a student with something that has puzzled them. For a long time, I have wondered about my ability to communicate complex ideas effectively."

Rudy Gonzales joined us late in the game, but has been an effective tutor, especially with his contributions to helping students in science courses. Rudy was too busy in the fall playing soccer and pursuing his academics to fulfill nursing school pre-requisites to join our team, but was eager to join us for his last semester. I appreciate Rudy's hard work and commitment to pursuing his nursing goals and helping students. Rudy will be transferring to Ozark Technical College's nursing program this fall.

I want to thank all of my tutors for their hard and admirable work. I am incredibly proud of each of you and wish you the best of luck in future pursuits.

TLC Gives Dedicated Learner Award

Congratulations to the winners of the TLC Dedicated Learner Award: Trent Althen and My Le Dwyer. The Learning Center gives this award to students who consistently use The Learning Center to succeed in their classes at ECC. Recipients of the award have shown grit and determination in their efforts to finish their degree.