Final exam preparation

Fall 2008 final exams are December 15th through 19th. All exams are two hours in duration. A list of each course, section, exam start time, building and room can be found at: www.admin.mtu.edu/em/students/plan/finalexam.php. Please check your final exam schedule. If you have a time conflict or more than three exams on one day, the Registrar’s Office will be e-mailing one of your professors to have an exam moved. They will also cc you on that e-mail so you know what is happening.

To help you prepare for final exams, below are exam preparation tips from Engineering Fundamentals faculty.

- Get enough rest - do not save all your studying until the last minute and lose sleep because you are not prepared for the exam.
- Manage your study time effectively - focus your efforts on the material you are least confident in or topics you know will be the majority of the exam.
- Make use of the study materials provided by the instructor. Complete the assigned reading.
- Ask questions during class if there is something you do not understand.
- When preparing for a final exam and reviewing each topic in the course - ask yourself "How could I test for this topic?" When you can answer that question, you are ready for the exam.
- Rewrite or type up your notes and review class slides.
- Take a short (10 minute) walk before your exam.
- Take study breaks.
- Higher thinking is one of the first things to go when you are exhausted or malnourished, so getting proper rest and nutrition during finals week is very important. It is best to allow at least a week of adjustment on this. So, check your final exam schedule to find the earliest time you will need to get out of bed, and then adjust your sleep schedule for that wake-up time in the week before finals, if possible. Eating right will also help you do your best on all those tests. Good luck on them.

- What worked best for me was paging through my notes.
- Mr. Mir Sadri-Sabet
- Write your own exam with your friends/class mates. Each write two problems. Take the exam, grade your questions, and review the exam as a group.
- Review homework and exams. Redo problems that you completed incorrectly. Complete additional problems at the end of the chapter.
- Ms. Amy Monte

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

EnViSIONS (Enhancing Visualization Skills -- Improving Options and Success)
by Dr. AJ Hamlin and Ms. Norma Veurink

Spatial visualization skills are vital to many careers and in particular to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. Because visualization is important in engineering, all freshman engineering students at Michigan Tech are given the Purdue Spatial Visualization Test: Rotations during orientation week. Students who do not do well on this screening are encouraged to take a 1-credit course, ENG1002-Introduction to Spatial Visualization. Studies at Michigan Tech have shown that students taking the spatial visualization course have better grades in first-year engineering and calculus courses, higher overall GPAs, higher retention rates, and find it easier to learn and to use 3-D solid modeling packages than students who did not do well on the screening but chose not to take the course.

The success of this course has encouraged other universities to incorporate spatial visualization training into their curricula. This is the second year in which spatial visualization materials developed at Michigan Tech are being used at the following institutions: Penn State Behrend, Purdue University, University of Iowa, Virginia State University, and Virginia Tech. A “Project Lead the Way” high school class in Arizona is also using Michigan Tech visualization materials. Early results from the first year of this effort show students taking the course, or a portion of the course, at other universities are improving their spatial skills in the same manner as those at Michigan Tech. It is hoped that if more universities adopt a spatial visualization training course, the number of engineering graduates in the United States will increase through improved retention. A future goal of this effort is to get visualization curriculum into elementary, middle, and high schools in hopes of increasing the number of high school students enrolling in engineering programs upon graduation.

Box Tops for education

Engineering Fundamentals is collecting Box Tops for local elementary schools. If you do not have an elementary school child to support, please consider bringing your Box Tops to 112 Dillman.

Registration

Registration is open November 2nd, 10pm through November 16th, midnight. Registration will reopen, November 23rd, 10pm. At that time, you can change your schedule or register for additional classes if needed. On-line registration will close again January 16th.

Do you need to drop a class?

After the last day to drop a class (October 24th), students who have extenuating circumstances must appeal to the Student Affairs office for a Late Drop. The instructions for requesting a Late Drop can be found at: www.admin.mtu.edu/dos/latedrop.htm.

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