Finals are almost here!!! Below are some test-taking tips to help you succeed. For more information, stop by the library and check out some of our study resources.

How to take tests:

1. Read the instructions carefully. Glance at the entire exam to see where you’ll earn the most points.
2. Look to see if answering questions that will be easy for you will earn as many points as the more difficult questions. If so, complete the easy questions first. After answering them you’ll have more confidence. Do not start with the most difficult questions, get stuck on them, and then panic when you begin to run out of time.
3. Read each question carefully to grasp exactly what it is asking you to do. If the stem of the question says “What is an argument against...,” then respond as requested. Do exactly what the instructor requests!
4. When you find an extremely difficult question or one you don’t understand, move on to easier questions. Come back later to the ones you skipped. This reduces anxiety, saves time, and lets your subconscious mind search for the answer while you think about other items. Skipping past hard items is also practical because sometimes you find a clue to the answer in questions that follow.

When questions puzzle you...
Skip it until the end of the test. Before turning in your exam write down anything that demonstrates some learning. Do not leave an answer blank. It gives the instructor a negative impression. If you can’t figure out the exact answer, you can probably come close and you might get partial credit!

Before you start writing answers, write some of the info you memorized on the back of the exam.

A well-written essay usually includes the following:
1. Introduction
2. Use headings and subheadings
3. Demonstrate critical thinking
4. Give examples
5. Provide definitions
6. Summarize
7. Edit for clarity

Create and take practice exams. This will help reduce your anxiety!

After studying, recite what you remember. The more sensory systems and muscles you involve in your learning, the faster and more long lasting your learning will be.

These tips are from the book The Adult Student’s Guide to Survival & Success ©2008 (Call number: LB 2343.32 .S556 2008)

The UWMC Library has Expanded Hours for Finals!

May 12—7:45am-9:00pm
May 13—7:45am-4:00pm
May 14—10:00am-4:00pm

May 15—3:00pm-9:00pm
May 16 & May 17—7:45am-9:00pm
May 18—7:45am-4:00pm

Restroom Readers can be accessed electronically online through the UWMC Library’s homepage.