Strategies for Multiple Choice Exams

Before the Exam

- Start **studying early**.
- Create a **study plan** and stick to your study schedule.
- Understand concepts rather than simply memorizing facts as instructors will often re-word the material.

During the Exam

- Preview the questions and **estimate** the time it will take to answer each of them.
- Answer all of the questions you know **first** and mark the ones you skip.
- Use **information** and **insights** you learn from other questions to go back and fix incorrect answers (if applicable).
- Try to **answer** the question **before looking** at the answer choices.
- Make sure **all aspects** of the answer are correct.
- If time allows, **review** your questions and answers at the end.

If You’re Unsure of the Answer

- If there is terminology you do not know, use your knowledge of common **prefixes** to answer (i.e. hyper means high).
- If two answers are similar, **translate** them to your own words and analyze the difference.
- **Only** change your answer for a better one or if you made a mistake.
- Make an **educated guess** by narrowing down your choices and carefully reviewing your options.
- **Don't** overthink the answer.

Tips

- You can eliminate "all of the above" if you know know one of the answer choices is incorrect.
- Watch for statements that include absolutes such as "never", "always", "is", "are", "guarantees", "ensures" as they may be restrictive and difficult to defend.

After the Exam

Reward yourself! Celebrate your accomplishment by taking a nap, having a great meal, visiting friends or other self-care activities.