Manage your own learning . . .

The University of Texas at Austin
Faculty Innovation Center

for students

1 Assess the task at hand
- Confirm exactly what you are expected to do. Ask your instructor for clarification if necessary.
- Recognize the different demands between simple tasks (e.g., read, calculate, summarize, etc.) and complex ones (e.g., explain, evaluate, design, etc.).
- Inventory what knowledge, skills, and materials are required to be able to succeed.

2 Evaluate your own strengths and weaknesses
- Determine what you already know and can do related to the task.
- Identify the knowledge and skills you still need to develop.
- Select an honest method for gauging your progress in learning the material?

3 Plan an appropriate approach
- For complex projects:
  - Gather all necessary information regarding deadlines, breaks, schedule conflicts, etc.
  - Work backwards from the final deadline to plot a course of action through each sub-part of the project.
- For complex problems:
  - Gather all necessary information regarding variables, parameters, units, etc.
  - Estimate reasonable answers and solutions in order to visualize possible results.

4 Apply strategies & monitor your performance
- Monitor your understanding during class and while studying.
- Tag the places in your notes where you got something wrong or have questions about the right answer.
- Regularly pause as you read to ask yourself questions about the text.
- Make connections between what you are learning and what has already been learned in the course.
- Reflect on the effectiveness of your approach to learning & studying
- Utilize feedback to gauge your level of understanding, including results from:

5 Reflect on & adjust your approach
- Seek help from others
  - a study group
  - review sessions
  - office hours
  - online group like Piazza.com or Hoot.me
- Find new strategies to to try out from classmates or instructors.

☆ Stay motivated and engaged
- Foster a mindset that focuses on the potential for intellectual growth.
- Keep practicing the intellectual habits that will serve you both now and later.
- Take ownership of your learning to produce knowledge and skills that last beyond the exam or the end of the course
- Persist through challenges, knowing that the effort you invest impacts your brains ability to make future connections.