



## The Blueprinting Approach to Academic Learning

Phase	0. Previewing the Course	1. Reading and Making Notes	2. Studying (& Doing Assignments)	3. Exam Preparation
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Establishing Your Target</i>	<i>Understanding</i>	<i>Retaining</i>	<i>Practicing The Target or Performance Task</i>
<u>Principle</u>	<u>Start with the end in mind and make predictions</u>	<u>Make what you are learning meaningful to yourself</u>	<u>Make what you are learning memorable to yourself</u>	<u>Make knowledge and skills retrievable on demand</u>
Cognitive Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand course design</li> <li>Determine course objectives</li> <li>Anticipate organizing themes</li> <li>Anticipate assessment</li> <li>Clarify your purpose</li> <li>Plan your learning approach</li> <li>Intend to understand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek relevance</li> <li>Identify significance</li> <li>Keep the whole in mind</li> <li>Distinguish main ideas</li> <li>Distinguish key details</li> <li>Look for connections</li> <li>Prepare for future study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize &amp; categorize</li> <li>Transform/reform-ulate</li> <li>Look for patterns</li> <li>Select &amp; prioritize</li> <li>Integrate with prior knowledge</li> <li>Explain to others</li> <li>Analyze returned assignments</li> <li>Synthesize &amp; reduce for future study</li> <li>Assess your knowledge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Predict performance task</li> <li>Practice remembering</li> <li>Practice tasks:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explaining</li> <li>Applying</li> <li>Analyzing</li> <li>Arguing</li> <li>Solving</li> <li>Evaluating</li> <li>Figuring out</li> </ul> </li> <li>Visualize performances</li> <li>Outline answers</li> <li>Memorize*</li> </ul>

\*Notice that “memorizing” is literally the strategy of last resort. Not only do you want to do as little of this as possible, you want to do this last in your study process. Anything you can learn and be prepared to recall by means other than rote memorization will be more readily applicable and transferable, so try to learn it my other means unless you have no other option. Additionally, you’ll find that these other more active, creative ways of studying are more engaging and enjoyable for you.

Cited and adapted from materials from the McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning (Princeton University)