bREEzing through Microeconomics

Tips and tricks to succeed

Read the material for every class before lecture. Encountering material for the first time in class makes it harder to absorb, as you’ll have to listen to lecture and try to understand it at the same time. If you already have a grasp on the basics of the material, even if you don’t understand it completely, you’ll spend more time in class digesting material and really understanding it!

Do the practice problems in your textbook, but make sure you check your answers with your professor, TA, pilot leader, or Learning Den tutor! The problems are a great resource, but if you continuously do problems without checking, you might not catch your mistakes and then make them on your exams.

Teach the material to someone. Most of the topics in the class build off of each other, so one problem can encompass several different topics. Try to work through a problem out loud, or to someone else, even if they haven’t taken the class! The goal of this isn’t to check your knowledge (although make sure you have practiced and know how to do the problem beforehand), but to learn how to connect all the topics and reason through them in order to communicate them effectively on your exams.

Before an exam, don’t fall into the trap of having a false sense of security by doing the same set of problems several times. Do your practice sets, but make sure you are understanding the relationships between the concepts and that you could do several variations of similar problems. Remember, there will always be a problem that was not specifically covered and that will rely on your reasoning skills and your ability to tie together all you’ve learned and apply the concepts to new situations.

Don’t wait until the last minute to seek help! Microeconomics requires a lot of reasoning skills that aren’t going to be studied in a night. Make use of all your resources, such as office hours, PILOT, and the Learning Den.