



▶ THE ART (OR CURSE) OF CRAMMING

VOLUME 1

ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2012



▶ MAJOR DECISIONS



▶ NOT RETURNING?

Undeclared *digest*

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR STUDENTS WHO
NEED TO DECLARE A MAJOR

Not Returning for Spring 2013?

What you should consider in order to plan your absence or withdrawal.

Educational Leave Program (ELP)

The deadline to ELP has passed. If you have been approved to ELP during SP'13, stay in touch with your advisor. You will register for classes the same time as other students.

Withdrawing from UC Merced for work, family or health reasons

1. Make a plan to finish your degree.
 - When will you return?
2. Consider your options.
 - What classes can you take at a community college? How will

your absence appear on your résumé? What work experience can you gain?

3. Complete the [University Cancellation/Withdrawal Form](#)
4. Touch base with the following offices:
 - [Advising](#) (Bright Success Center)
 - [Financial Aid](#) (if you receive aid)
 - [Housing](#) (if you live on campus)

Transferring to another university

To exit UC Merced, refer to bullets 3–4 above. Stay in touch with the admission office at your new college.



IN OTHER NEWS...

Worried about upcoming projects, papers and exams? Tutoring for many classes is available until Friday, December 7. Check the tutoring schedule on the [Bright Success Center website](#)

Major Decision...Engineering, SSHA or Natural Sciences?

Eligible students can declare a major during the first two weeks of the spring semester. How do you know what major is right for you?



Picking a major is not the same as choosing a career, every major offers flexibility in what careers are related, and usually students can pursue a particular career through various majors.

What is Engineering?

Engineering is about problem solving, innovation and the creation of devices, systems, processes and structures. Engineers create new ideas and transform them into products and services that improve

people's lives. Engineers apply math, chemistry and physics to solve problems and meet the needs of society.*

What is SSHA?

The School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts majors will prepare students for meaningful careers, encourage intellectual and moral growth, promote sound decision-making, instill the values of lifelong learning and encourage civic responsibility, public service and understanding in a global society.*

What is Natural Sciences?

The School of Natural Sciences shares the joy of discovery in our natural world. NS majors will gain a better understanding of the scientific foundation of the world in which we live and develop the skills necessary to meet the scientific challenges of the 21st cen-

ture. Focus is on science, technology and innovation.*

You should choose a major that excites you, based on the coursework, not just the career prospects. The more exciting the major, the better kind of student you will be. When you find a major you find fascinating, you are more likely to also find passion for related career opportunities.

For more help with finding the right major for you, visit Career Services for a career assessment and one-on-one counseling. careerservices.ucmerced.edu

Be open-minded and tap into your thirst for knowledge and joy of learning.

* from the University Catalog

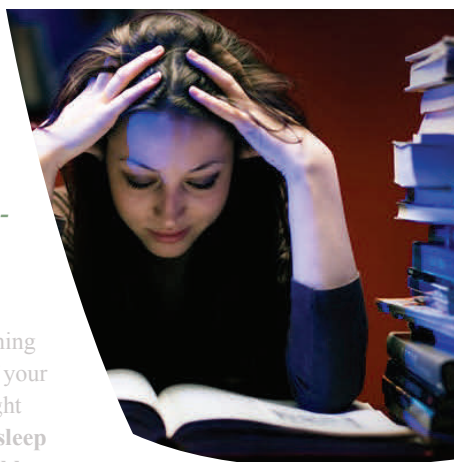
The Art (or Curse) of Cramming

Cramming is never a good approach to learning. However, we want students to succeed in any situation, so if you run out of time, here are some tips that students have wiki'd about studying in a hurry.

1. Make Good Notes. Having **good notes** and note-taking skills is crucial for getting the most out of study the night before an exam.
2. Study Effectively. **Identify key topics**, refer to the intro and end of chapters, use flashcards and test yourself. For essay exams, consider possible essay questions. Think about **overarching concepts** and hand-write an outline.
3. Night Before & Morning After. Do the bulk of your studying done the night before, **get as much sleep as possible** and wake up with enough time to review. Do not go all night without sleep, because we are prone to making careless mistakes on exams when we are tired.
4. Review One More Time. Right before the exam, look through your notes

cram [kram], verb:
to fill something by force with more than it can easily hold (crammed; cramming)

—DICTIONARY.COM



and flashcards **one last time**.
Last-Minute Tips

- Study partners can help quiz you.
- Eliminate all distractions, even if you must turn off your phone.
- Take a 5–10 minute break every 50 minutes.
- Read aloud. Verbal memorization can be effective.
- Drink lots of water.

—WIKIHOW.COM/CRAM-FOR-A-TEST

Upcoming Workshop

[Prepare for Finals with Confidence & Calm](#)

Wednesday, Dec. 5
8–8:50pm

Summits Meeting Room

Stress Fest

Monday, Dec. 10
7–9pm, Lantern

Tutoring

Worried about a final project, paper or exam? Tutoring for many classes is available until Friday, December 7. Check the tutoring schedule on the [Bright Success Center website](#).

Finals Frenzy

[Finals Frenzy](#) is a tutoring event that provides tutoring in 15–20 subjects. Free snacks are provided.

Tuesday, Dec. 4
6:30–9:30pm

Bobcat Lair, KL 169

Study Smart

Plan ahead, so you don't need to cram. Cramming is a gamble, and if you cram for an exam, you are less likely to commit important concepts to long-term memory. This is especially detrimental if you cram for a class that's a prerequisite for other classes.

Make a study plan 3–4 weeks before finals, and use strategies that help you master your subjects. Here are a few:

- Teach someone else
- Look for analogies and metaphors for complicated concepts
- Repetition
- Study groups

How to Check Your Final Grades

1. Log in to your [Portal](#)
2. Click MyStudentRecord
3. Click Final Grades
4. Select term

Hang in there!
You are almost done & break begins next weekend, so persevere!

Your Advisors,
Stacie & JaeJae