

Frequently Asked Questions about the Peer-Assisted Learning (PAL) Program

What is PAL?

Peer-Assisted Learning (PAL) is a series of weekly review sessions for students taking historically difficult courses. PAL is provided for all students who want to improve their understanding of course material and improve their grades.

Attendance at sessions is voluntary. For you, the student, it's a chance to get together with people in your class to compare notes, to discuss important concepts, to develop strategies for studying the subject, and to test yourselves before your professor does, so that when he/she does, you will be ready. At each session, you will be guided through this material by your PAL leader, a competent student who has previously taken the course.

What is a PAL leader?

Have you ever wished you could do something over, knowing what you know now? PAL leaders are students themselves and are prepared to share with you what they have learned over the years about how to study. They know the course content and are anxious to help guide you through it. They will be in class with you every day, hearing what you hear and reading what you read. What they won't do is lecture; their job is to help you think about the lectures you hear and the books you read, and then put it all together during the PAL review sessions. PAL can help you learn course material more efficiently.

When do PAL review sessions start?

The PAL leader will set up one or more review sessions each week at times that are best for the majority of students taking the class. These sessions will begin the second or third week of the semester. PAL review sessions are informal. Bring your notes; bring your textbook; bring your questions.

What is in it for me?

If you attend PAL sessions regularly, chances are you will earn a better grade. You will have developed a better understanding of course content as well as more effective ways of studying. This will help you in other classes as well.

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