

Tips for Tutoring

1. Patience is a virtue.
 - **Students sometimes see tutoring as a last resort, and they may bring their frustrations with the materials and with having to 'resort' to tutoring with them to the session. Avoid letting their frustration become your frustration. Remember that students who show up for tutoring may not find the material as easy as you might have when you were going through it.**
2. Try to become familiar with the professors who are teaching the courses.
 - **All professors have different styles and different ways of teaching. Some may focus on book questions and book topics while others may go completely from their own knowledge and some may balance the two. Knowing what the professor wants may make it easier to figure out how you can help the student.**
3. Keep students focused on the task at hand.
 - **Sometimes students want to drive the sessions a little off track. Keep them focused on the next step(s) and help them work to the conclusion of the problem or the paper.**
4. Never do work for the students.
 - **Keep the responsibility and the sense of accomplishment for their work in their hands – do not write on their work unless you are reading it for errors.**
5. Check for understanding by asking open questions or asking the student to explain it to you.
 - **Questions like "do you understand" move the tutoring session forward, but do not help you understand what the tutee does or does not understand. Try asking questions like "how did you complete the problem" or "why did you decide to do it like that".**
6. Do not be afraid of silence.
 - **After asking the question, wait for at least seven seconds before you respond. The quiet can feel awkward, but it gives students a chance to think through their response and/or figure out that they're not quite sure what you are asking for.**
7. Feel free to ask the student to do the work on their own without your direct supervision.
 - **Part of a successful tutoring experience is making sure the student can do the work when they're not in tutoring, but in their dorm room or their lecture hall.**
8. When correcting students, do so in a positive, respectful manner.
 - **You are trying to help them improve themselves. Respond to their mistakes without reacting negatively. Let them know you care about their improvement.**
9. Engage students as best you can.
 - **Do you learn more from boring, monotonous professors or upbeat, engaging professors? You have a captive audience (the student showed up for tutoring); use it!**
10. Don't be afraid to get to know students and help them outside the subject matter.
 - **Asking the student what they're majoring in might give you some insight into how the material might be relevant to them. If they say they're struggling with time management, talk a little bit about what works for you.**