

# Semester & Weekly Planners



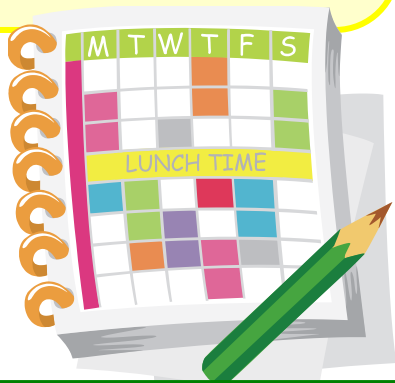
The Learning Center  
at UNC-CH



## The Semester Planner

A one page calendar that displays the “big picture” of your semester. Helpful in identifying and preparing for your busiest weeks.

- **Review** your syllabi and enter the dates of all exams, papers, projects, events, and travel into semester planner.



## The Weekly Planner

A grid for hourly, week-by-week planning. Helpful in identifying and planning unstructured time.

1. **Mark** and **label** time slots occupied by classes, employment, sports, extracurricular activities, and other regular commitments.
2. For each class, **create a weekly to-do list**, estimating how much time to allot for each reading, assignment, exam-prep and project.
3. **Insert these tasks** into open slots on your weekly planner, building in buffer time.
4. **Use color** to differentiate classes and activities visually.

## WEEKLY PLANNING THAT WORKS

### Reduce tasks to manageable steps or segments

Work backwards from a target date and distribute the load across your schedule. Example: Rather than reading 50 pages of a dense textbook in one sitting, try 10 pages at a time.

### Know when and where you work best

Plan for your hardest studying when you know you're most alert and focused. Select a study location where you can stay productive.

### Maximize Breaks in Your Schedule

Arrive to class early to review and stay afterward to clarify lecture material while it's fresh. Review flashcards while standing in line or riding the bus.



### Strive for Balance

“All work and no play make Jack a dull boy.” However, all play and no work sets the stage for bad grades! A healthy, productive schedule includes breaks and a mix of activities.

### Adjust your schedule as needed

Flexibility and creative thinking prevent unforeseen circumstances from derailing your daily or weekly goals.

### Set a Stopping Time at Night

Sleep deprivation affects attention, cognition, and memory.

**Keep planner with you. Make a copy and post in prominent place. Refer to and update as needed.**

For further reading

[Click Here!](#)

Like This Handout?

[Here's More!](#)



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 United States License. You may reproduce it for non-commercial use if you use the entire handout and attribute the source: The Learning Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.