Tips for Passing Exams during College

- Develop a formal study plan, and track your study hours at all time
- SOA recommends studying a 100 hours per hour of exam (ex, 400 hours studying for a 4 hour exam)
  - This is more of a guideline than a rule
  - Puts the exam into perspective
  - Planning for the full allotment will allow for more margin if things come up that get you behind in studying
  - Err on the side of over preparing to offset negative variables
- Start from the day of the exam, and count backwards to determine weekly hours goal
- Develop a reasonable weekly study goal
  - Find balance between not having too many hours to study during the week and not starting too far in advance
  - Counting hours on a weekly basis allows for day to day flexibility, but keeps you focused
  - Take pride in meeting your weekly goal, and get ahead early in the week to allow for relaxation on the weekends
- Make studying a part of your daily schedule
  - Study time should be considered another class
  - Set your class schedule to allow for 3 to 5 hour study chunks during the day
  - Find your preferred study blocks. Some people prefer an hour or two at a time, some people prefer 5 hour plus marathons
- Understand the exam process
  - Know when exams are offered and plan accordingly
  - Research the best study manuals for the given exam
  - Get in the classes that do the best to help you prepare
- Use study manuals, as class material is generally not enough for the majority of people
- Either fully commit to taking and passing an exam, or don't take it
  - You are better to spend more time once, than taking it multiple times. Doing it right the first time always is more efficient in the end
- Utilize libraries, coffee shops, etc to find a change in scenery
  - Find places that work for you and mix it up when necessary
- Study with others, but use caution
  - Everyone learns and studies at their own pace
  - Company is great while studying as long as it doesn’t turn into a distraction
  - Studying with others who are taking the same exam can help, but make sure that majority of studying is done independently
- Balance is key: prioritize and manage time between school, rest, social, etc
- Pass as many exams as you can while you are in college
  - Helps you get jobs
  - Helps your career immensely once you get that job
  - You have more free time in college than you do once you start working
- Certainly exam material helps establish a foundation for actuarial concepts, but the real value is the development of study habits, attention to detail, and the ability to learn mass amounts of information quickly and with great depth
- Enjoy college, but be ambitious, and keep in mind life after college