Learning occurs best when we are motivated by faith, guided by the Holy Spirit, and centered on serving God.

As you increase your faith in God, it becomes a catalyst of action and of power that motivates you to seek inspiration and direction from the Spirit. In D&C 42:14 we are taught: “The Spirit shall be given unto you by the prayer of faith.” Faith and the companionship of the Holy Ghost expands your learning capacity. The Spirit helps us better understand one another and together be edified (D&C 50:22). Further, the power of your faith and the influence of the Holy Spirit can be magnified when your primary motives for learning are rooted in your baptismal and temple covenants to love one another, serve God, and to build His kingdom.

Your experience in class is an important part of your leadership development at BYU-Hawaii. When you cultivate a personal vision of your program of study you are approaching your class as a leader. Be a leader by setting personal goals and standards with assistance from your teachers and advisors. Take personal responsibility for what happens to you, both internally and externally. Take initiative and be the leader of your education by planning and executing ways to improve your learning.

As you study and learn, you will encounter new knowledge, perspectives, and ideas that can transform the way you think, solve problems, make decisions, and act. What you learn may also change the way you think of yourself, others, and the physical and social world. These changes occur when you are open to new ideas and concepts and are willing to modify some of your assumptions and prior “knowledge.” Learning will require you to construct new mental models. Being open to change is essential as you increase your capacity to navigate the complexities of a fast-changing world.

No one can learn for us. It is just as important that you consistently improve your capacity to learn as it is to master the material in your courses. Doing so will enhance your ability and enjoyment in learning for a lifetime. Your task is to construct the ideas in your mind and the meaning that the material holds for you. Constantly improve your reading comprehension, skill at note taking, methods of organizing new material, getting the “big picture” associated with new concepts, and use a systematic method for review. Learning how to learn more effectively than you already do is one of the most important things you can do as a student at BYU-Hawaii.

It is important to regularly assess and reflect on your learning. Feedback from teachers and fellow students is important, but equally important is your evaluation of yourself. Make time for self-assessment and reflection on what you have learned and how it applies to your life. With insights gathered from your class preparation and discussions with others, make changes as needed to improve your understanding and make the necessary adjustments to your thinking and approach to learning.

Being an active learner means that before class you construct and connect in your mind the ideas and concepts being introduced in your course materials and readings. Then you should go to class prepared to share and teach others what you learned. Through your classroom conversations, collaborating, and interacting with your peers and instructors, you will enhance your ability to appreciate differences and prepare to navigate the complexities of a culturally diverse world. Do not go to class expecting to sit and just listen. Go to be active, to contribute, and to serve.

Learning occurs best when we are engaged in meaningful reflection and self-assessment.

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