

What is PASS?

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Study groups are a way of learning in a group with other students. By studying together, students are more likely to perform better in their subject area, establish effective study routines and network with other people in the same course.

PASS (Peer Assisted Study Support) aims to:

- Help first-year students understand what is expected of them here at Victoria and
- Model appropriate study skills for meeting these expectations
- Help students gain confidence as independent learners
- Develop a deeper understanding of subject area through active learning that encourages students to develop their critical thinking and reflective skills.
- Give International students practice in speaking English in relation to course content so that they become more fluent and can express themselves better in assignments, tests and exams
- Help students form friendships and study partners in a learner-friendly environment (rather than in isolation) to enhance their chance of success
- Enable students to achieve satisfactory grades so they will re-enrol in more advanced study
- Give 'A' students the opportunity to develop leadership skills for the future

Peer

- recently studied the subject (B+ or better)
- similar level of status
- shared interest in same topic
- role model
- no grading or assessment role

Assisted

- facilitate not 'spoon feed' learners
- encourage **active** and **collaborative** learning
- create a safe learning environment
- encourage everyone to speak and ask questions
- encourage participants to take responsibility for their own learning
- ask questions — wait for answers
- provide appropriate and timely feedback
- show enthusiasm for the subject!

Study

- demonstrate different study techniques
- model successful strategies
- understand and acknowledge different learning styles
- study guides and tips from lecturers
- understanding course requirements and criteria
- focus on critical thinking and deep learning

Support

- regular
- out of class
- voluntary
- linked to lectures
- interactive
- friendly, fun, informal
- English speaking

What is the best thing about PASS?

(adapted from University of Queensland: Leader Training Manual, 1999)

What is the best thing about PASS?

“Sharing ideas with others”

“Asking questions you can’t ask in lectures”

“Talking with other students in the same situation”

“Brainstorming for assignment and exams”

“Knowing what to expect”

“Going over stuff you didn’t understand in the lecture”

“My one time to really get a grip on what was happening in class”

“Having a cool Leader who encourages and doesn’t just spoon feed us the answers”

“Checking you’re on the right track”

“Offers a different viewpoint to lectures and tutorials”

“Discussing my ideas with others helped me form a logical argument”

“Helps material sink in”

“Motivated me to do revision at home as it was just a follow on from what we did in PASS groups”

“Made me enthusiastic about the subject”