Here are some UNCOMMON TRAITS successful students use:

1. Review PREVIOUS course material (just the summary notes)-- our engineering education IS comprehensive

2. Read or at least skim reading material BEFORE the lectures. PRE THINK the material. Cultivate your own questions.

3. Listen ACTIVELY -- generating questions and either writing them down or asking them. Don't let confusion "SOLIDIFY or CURE" -- it's harder to remove if it does.

4. Try example problems in the textbook BEFORE trying homework problems

5. Do a self-test: use the learning objectives, key terms, and prep. problems to do a SANITY CHECK on your understanding: constantly asking "DO I REALLY KNOW THIS MATERIAL...IF YES, HOW SO? CAN YOU EXPLAIN IT TO SOMEONE ?"

6. Take advantage of OFFICE HOURS - for one-on-one time with the instructor.

7. Tell the instructor what's clear or not clear via MUDDY CARDS.

8. Build a RAPPORT with the instructor through curiosity and appreciation. Offer suggestions to improve classroom effectiveness. Instructors typically take 3-4 hours to prepare for 1 hr of instruction.

My Favorite Study Guide Book:

**What Smart Students Know** by Adam Robinson
Online Notes: [http://www.minezone.org/wiki/MVance/WhatSmartStudentsKnow](http://www.minezone.org/wiki/MVance/WhatSmartStudentsKnow)