

## **GROUP WORK: WORKING TOGETHER HELPS EVERYONE**

You may have noticed that when you explain something to a friend, you gain a better understanding yourself. The reason for this is that when you explain an idea, you need to think more deeply about it. When you study with others you:

- Think out loud: This not only helps you learn the material better but also helps your oral communication skills.
- Share ideas: You add to your “bag of tricks” in solving/approaching problems.
- Share talents: Different students have different strengths, such as organization skills and the ability to stay on task.
- Learn from one another.
- Cover more material: You will be able to learn a lot more and do more problems when you work with others.
- Benefit from a support system: Each student’s work affects the other members, which results in making members supportive of one another.
- Socialize: You will get to know other students, besides it is more fun to study with others.

### **FORMING YOUR GROUP**

In an effective group, you and other students explain concepts to each other, argue about different explanations and figure out why one person’s answer differs from another’s. In the process, you most likely learn more than you would have learned by yourself.

It is important to follow the following guidelines to ensure that you have a good working group.

- How many? – Please form groups 3 or 2.
- Who? – First and foremost we want to form groups with people we admire and respect. Another important thing is that you want to choose members that won’t distract you.
- Select a group leader – This person is in charge of organizing meetings outside of class.
- It is advised that you do not form study groups with close friends.

When working in groups it is important that every group member tries every problem, and then the group members compare results.