

# HANDWRITTEN VS. ELECTRONIC NOTES

## DID YOU KNOW:

There is some research that states handwritten notes are more beneficial when learning new material? The downside is the time it takes to create them. Think about what works best for you.

## Typed notes

Most students are more likely to write verbatim, without processing the information first. This method tends to be quicker and more organized. There is a learning curve on new programs but notes are easy to modify and find.

## Handwritten notes

Most students must process information before writing it down, which has benefits. This method tends to be slower. Paper notes take up physical space, and must be carried around with the risk of misplacing notes. There is often more flexibility and control over layout

## How to decide

Try both methods while keeping these questions in mind:

- Do you become distracted while creating notes in one format?
- Are you able to retain and recall information better using one method?
- Is one method taking you much longer?
- Do you have difficulty deciphering your handwritten notes?
- When it comes time to review, are you able to organize yourself better with one method or another?



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## Extra considerations:

You might find some courses lend themselves to handwritten notes, while others don't.

Consider the ease of making concept maps, tables, and charts within your notes. Is one method easier to create these things? What about colors and symbols?

You might find that it is easier to take notes in class electronically, then make notes by hand when consolidating on the weekend.

## A few electronic note taking programs:

- [Microsoft OneNote](#)
- [Evernote](#)
- [Notability](#)

## Interested in more tips?

Make an appointment with  
The Office of Academic  
Success:

[SomAcademicSuccess@Hofstra.edu](mailto:SomAcademicSuccess@Hofstra.edu)

# RESEARCH REGARDING NOTE TAKING WITH TECHNOLOGY AND RETENTION WHILE LEARNING

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