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LIS EOPe Survival Tips

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Plan and Prepare

• Planning and preparing helped me pass the LIS End of Program Exams (LISEOPe).

• Organize course materials, review materials from the core classes.

• Be prepared to receive the LIS EOPe 10 questions in Blackboard at 8 a.m. on the first day of the exam. Select three questions.

• Start writing and researching on the first day, do not procrastinate.
1. Face you fear.

• It is an enormous task to write three, 1500-2500 word essays in one week. Break down your fear(s). Mine was time; I’m a slow reader, slow writer.

• For the LIS End of Program Exams, I took two days for each question: research and rough draft on the first day, revisions on the second day. On the seventh day, I refined each of the three papers.
Start writing, no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on.

- Louis L'Amour

Source: wekosh.com
2. Attend LIS End of Program Exam Workshops.

- The workshops are taught by instructors who care about student success.
- The workshops are available online and face-to-face and provide valuable hints and tips.
- Recent LIS graduates discuss how they passed the exams.
3. Create a calm, comfortable environment.

- Set up a writing space with few or no distractions. Use a familiar writing location. I write in a home office, one of my classmates writes at Starbucks. We both passed the exam.

- As much as possible, you will need to clear your schedule for the week.

- Let your family and friends know that you are writing three, 1500-2500 word essays with citations.

- The word “citations” will let them know that this is a serious endeavor.
4. Select three questions. Answer each part of each question.

- The LISEOPe questions arrive in Blackboard at 8 a.m. on exam day. Read all ten questions and select three.

- Break down the question; use each part as a header in your paper.

- Write to the question. One reason students fail the exam is that they do not answer each part of the question.
5. Do not plagiarize.

• The major reason students do not pass the exam is claiming someone else’s ideas as your own.

• Cite direct quotations and cite paraphrasing.

• A paper should not be a list of quotations, trust your critical thinking skills and develop your own ideas.
YOU GET A CITATION!

AND YOU GET A CITATION!

AND YOU GET A CITATION!

EVERYONE GETS A CITATION!

Source: quickmem.com
6. Sources

• Do not use previous papers. Write all new material for the LIS End of Program Exams.

• The papers are processed through Turnitin and checked for plagiarism.

• You can use previous articles and new sources in Library Information Science Source (LISS) peer-reviewed journals.
7. Use an APA 6\textsuperscript{th} edition style guide.

- The LIS End of Program Exam requires APA style. \textit{Do not deviate}. Use an APA style guide to check your citations. My recommendations:

  - Purchase a copy of the APA style book, it is worth the investment.

  - Apastyle.org, the apastyle.org blog is helpful for the most current apa citation information.

  - Purdue Owl APA Style Guide
    http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/
8. Take breaks.

- Give your brain a rest by doing something unrelated to the exam, take a break.
- Give your eyes a rest by activities not related to looking at a computer screen.
- Anything physical is also a good distraction: dancing, exercise, housecleaning, yard work.
• I worked for two hour sessions or 500 word increments then watched one episode of Mad Men as a reward.

• Mad Men took my mind away from the exam so I was fresh when I went back to research and writing.
9. Save your work often: email, flash drive, hard drive.

• Remember to save your work. It is best to save to multiple locations: email, flash drive, hard drive. This is to protect you from a computer malfunction or any other disaster.

• One friend waited to turn in her exams at the last minute and her computer crashed. However, she periodically emailed drafts to herself so she was able to submit those from another computer.
10. Standby computer(s).

- Make sure the computer you have is in good working condition. Have a backup computer available.

- Notify a tech-savvy friend or family member that you may need their computer and services during the week of the exams.
Conclusion

• My anxiety about the LIS End of Program Exam was alleviated when I started writing.

• I knew my topics, the three questions I answered were interesting to me and I discovered new ideas while doing research.

• I was inspired by learning about my subjects and motivated by the deadline to finish the essays.