Beyond Time Management. Strategies to Optimize Your Productivity. Handout 1

## **Step 1: Prioritize**

**Priority Inventory** 

Task/Project	Important?	Urgent?	Action
			Both → Get it done now! Only important→ schedule/organize time Only urgent → try to delegate Neither → reflect & discuss w/mentor
			Both → Get it done now! Only important→ schedule/organize time Only urgent → try to delegate Neither → reflect & discuss w/mentor
			Both → Get it done now! Only important→ schedule/organize time Only urgent → try to delegate Neither → reflect & discuss w/mentor

Break Down Complex/Large Tasks into "Doable To-Do-Lists"

Step 1:	
Step 2:	
Step 3:	
Step 4:	
Step 5:	

### **Step 2: Optimize**

Identify the time of day where your mental and physical energy are highest. Automated Morningness-Eveningness Questionnaire: http://www.cet-hosting.com/limesurvey/index.php?sid=61524

Schedule and use this time of day for hardest/most mentally demanding tasks

Limit working on any individual task or project to 25-30 minute blocks & take breaks:

- Pomodoro technique set timer to work in 15-30 minutes blocks
- Sit stand move

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# **Step 3: Organize**

Tips that I will try to help improve my organization:

Key Tips:

- Put your "Doable To-Do List" in your calendar
- Create a schedule for each day of the upcoming week
- Review your schedule to find "down time" that you can take advantage of

### Step 4: Minimize (interruptions) – space for note-taking below

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### Email Management Tips:

- Schedule time to check email (not 1<sup>st</sup> thing in morning)
- Email responses Touch once and keep brief
- Organize Inbox with folders; consider creating rules to pre-sort emails (see below)

### Manage Outlook email messages by using rules - Design a custom rule

- 1. Click the **File** tab.
- 2. Click Manage Rules & Alerts.
- 3. In the Rules and Alerts dialog box, on the **E-mail Rules** tab, click **New Rule**.
- 4. Under Start from a blank rule, click either Check messages when they arrive or Check messages after sending.
- 5. Click Next.
- 6. Under Step 1: Select condition(s), select the conditions that you want the messages to meet for the rule to apply.
- 7. Under Step 2: Edit the rule description, click an underlined value for any condition that you added, and then specify the value.
- 8. Click Next.
- 9. Under Step 1: Select action(s), select the action that you want the rule to take when the specified conditions are met.
- 10. Under Step 2: Edit the rule description, click an underlined value for any action that you added, and then specify the value.
- 11. Click Next.
- 12. Under Step 1: Select exception(s), select any exceptions to the rule, and then click Next.
- 13. Under Step 2: Edit the rule description, click an underlined value for any exception that you added, and then specify the value.
- 14. Click Next.
- 15. Under Step 1: Specify a name for this rule, enter a name.
- 16. Under Step 2: Setup rule options, select the check boxes for the options that you want.
- 17. If you want to run this rule on messages that already are in the Inbox, select the Run this rule now on messages already in "Inbox" check box.
- 18. By default, the new rule is turned on. To turn off the rule, clear the Turn on this rule check box.
- 19. To apply this rule to all email accounts set up in Outlook, select the **Create this rule on** all accounts check box.
- 20. Click Finish.

For more tips:<u>https://support.office.com/en-ca/article/Manage-email-messages-by-using-rules-50307363-0e79-4f6a-95c0-04b922a2ff13</u>