

Everyone has his or her own style of studying, and I am no different. What helped me the most was staying after hours in my office, moving to the conference room (NOT MY DESK!!!) where I could spread out my materials, and spending an hour or two EVERY NIGHT going over the chapters in the textbook, and highlighting in the HTS and CFR. Also, at least 4-6 hours every weekend was spent in the private study room of my local library. I did find that tabbing the HTS and CFR helped me "learn" the material, but I rarely "depended" on it to find the info while taking the exam. In fact, I used various "quick reference" sheets to remember where the info was that I created during my studies. I had the CD's playing in my vehicle any time my wife wasn't riding with me, so that played a part in retaining the material as well...it should be noted that the info on the CD's helped me better understand the material "overall."

The previous exam questions and chapter review questions were invaluable, as far as I am concerned. In my opinion, they sewed together (in the same format as the exam) the material just covered in the text. Also, the week-long seminar, while boring *solely because of the material* and not the presenter, was a good review for me, and it happened to be the week before the exam.

A positive attitude is IMPERITIVE to passing the exam, and anyone who constantly thinks about the difficulty of the material is destined for disappointment. A motivational tool worked for me. My motivation was that all of the time I wasn't spending with my wife, child and friends, and all of the work that wasn't getting done on and around my house would be worth it when I didn't have to sit for the exam again. One 4 month sacrifice was all I was allowing myself. In short, stay positive. Yes, it's hard work, and the material is boring...we all know that. But you only have to pass the exam once, *like I just did...*