Learn from Your Mistakes

Error Example #1 Did not answer a question with the correct list or correct concept.
Cause: Memorized material as separate lists and ideas rather than getting overall view of material by organizing it on summary sheets and learning it as an organized mass of material.

Error Example #2 Did not write answers that sufficiently covered the topic.
Cause: Skimpy lecture notes and skimpy study sheets. Avoid by taking complete lecture notes and making complete study sheets.

Error Example #3 Did not answer the question in the correct manner.
Cause: Careless, hasty reading of the question and the desire to write about what you have studied, whether or not the question asks about it. Avoid by reading the question well, marking and numbering its parts, and referring back to it from time to time as you write. Ask the professor to clarify a difficult question, if this can be done without giving the answer away.

Error Example #4 Did not know key terms, either as they appeared in question or as they were needed in answer.
Cause: Neglected to isolate and learn key terms. Avoid by writing key terms on lists or cards and learning what these terms mean before an exam. Repetitively visiting these terms 20-40 minutes a day will help store these key terms in long-term memory!

Error Example #5 Did not know how to apply the material learned in class to new situation. (For example: not knowing how to apply grammar you've learned in class.)
Causes:
     a. Depended too heavily on rote memorization without real comprehension
     b. Did not review and reflect on material

Error Example #6 Did not use enough material in answer; didn't cover all aspects of the question; didn't use enough specific supporting material in answer; didn't give ramifications or implications.
Causes:
     a. Skimpy lecture notes.
     b. Did not review and reflect on material throughout semester.
     c. Did not integrate lecture notes with textbook and library reading.
     d. Did not re-read the question or concept to make sure all points were covered

Error Example #7 Wrote long, rambling answers that were inefficient, redundant, and full of irrelevant material.
Cause: Neglected to plan and make brief outline of answer before beginning to write.