TIPS FOR SUCCEEDING IN COLLEGE

Professor Contact:
- Let your professor put a face with your name; ask pertinent questions.
- Read ahead so that you can ask valuable questions and become “known” to the professor.
- Sit in the front row if possible.
- Be able to clearly and simply discuss your specific learning needs.
- Be able to talk about why you are interested in the course/topic/book.

Study Skills:
- Sit in the front row if possible.
- Schedule classes with your best learning/alertness periods in mind.
- Become involved in a study group.
- Meet with tutors or class aides to discuss lecture and text materials.
- Ask if old exams are available for your review.
- Break long assignments into smaller parts – give yourself deadlines.
- Study every day; make summaries and outlines as you go along. Don’t wait for the week before mid-terms or finals to “cram.”
- Make a note of what was confusing in the lecture or the text and ask about it.
- Stay focused.
- Borrow someone’s notes if necessary.

Organization Skills:
- Set daily time for review of each subject. Begin with the most difficult or boring subject.
- Color code material.
- Learn to highlight when reading; develop a color-coded system instead of making the whole page yellow!
- Seek out a quiet place to study. Know what distracts you and remove it or yourself.
- Study in the same place each day.
- Allow more time than you think it will require: keep track of how long it actually takes you to finish the job.
- Make studying a priority! It’s your job!

Personal Considerations:
- Follow a major that reflects and enhances your strengths.
- Look for materials which are presented in your learning style to support the text and lecture materials (i.e., videos, tapes, computers).
● Ask about requirements for math and foreign language courses/credits. If required, consider taking them during summer sessions.
● Be prepared to type all papers. Hire a typist or improve your own skills.
● Pace the amount of heavy reading or writing courses, knowing your own abilities and skill bases.
● Remember that no paper or project can ever be perfect. Accept some “failures” and seek out the corrections. Celebrate partial successes along the way.
● Consider taking more than the typical four years’ time to complete college.
● Find a mentor, either a graduate student or professor, to guide you and inspire you. Their applied knowledge about your field of interest may make lectures and texts “come alive” and be meaningful!
● If you must work to earn money, try to make it related to your major. Ask your major department and professors about job opportunities.
● Sleep deprivation and all-night cramming does not help you learn.
● Monitor your health and nutrition. Know your personal health history.
● Don’t ever give up.

Printed October 2004 with permission of the Houston Branch of IDA.

©Copyright 2004, The International Dyslexia Association (IDA). IDA encourages the reproduction and distribution of this fact sheet. If portions of the text are cited, appropriate reference must be made. Fact sheets may not be reprinted for the purpose of resale.