



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.

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