

Tips for being a successful student

- 1.) Treat your classes as if they were your job
 - a. Education is the biggest investment you can make in your life. Treat it as such.
 - b. Go to class every day. If you don't feel bad about missing classes then you are in the wrong place.
 - c. Do not make excuses for yourself. Set attainable goals and work towards achieving them. If you fall short, reflect on how *you* can improve in the future.
- 2.) Organize your life
 - a. Use a day planner
 - b. Check your e-mail often (respond to e-mails when you open them!)
 - c. Plan ahead. At the beginning of each semester write important deadlines in your day planner.
 - d. Review your day planner frequently!
- 3.) Work on becoming a better communicator
 - a. Set aside enough time to read your assignments. When you read, take the time to look up words that are unfamiliar to you and keep a vocabulary journal that you can carry around with you and review from time to time.
 - b. Remember, the best way to become a strong writer is to read!
 - c. Always start your written assignments *at least* a week before the due date, and before turning in the final draft, take it to the writing studio to have it edited.
 - d. Approach in-class presentations as an opportunity to work on your oral communication skills. (The stakes are rather low, so relax and have fun!)
 - e. Draft *professional* e-mails when writing professors! (i.e., introduction, complete sentences, etc.)
 - f. Remember, your college education is of little use if you cannot clearly communicate with others. Push yourself to become a clear, concise writer and a strong speaker. These two skills are transferable into any industry or field.
- 4.) Never settle for less than an A
 - a. Hold yourself to high standards. Set goals and try to surpass them.
 - b. The next time you get less than an A on any assignment, challenge yourself to improve on the next assignment.
- 5.) Never lose sight of your larger goals
 - a. A college education should be part of a larger vision you hold for yourself. In this sense, you should approach college as your training ground. (The more time you put into your training now the more likely you are to succeed in your professional life after college.) From time to time take an hour or two to reflect on your long-term goals for yourself. Be sure to write them down! This will help you maintain perspective during stressful moments such as midterms and final exams.
- 6.) Enjoy yourself!
 - a. College is one of the most defining moments of your life, so enjoy it! Take a wide variety of classes, and most importantly, open yourself up to new ways of thinking.
 - b. As the traditional adage reminds us: "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." Striking a healthy balance between work and play is an essential part to succeeding in college but more importantly, it is key to living a fulfilling life. With that in mind, remove yourself from the academic grind from time to time. Take a hike, go fishing, hang out with friends, get up on the slopes, watch a movie, read a novel, listen to music, etc.

