

ACADEMIC SUCCESS TIPS

Tips for active classroom learning:

1. Be prepared. Have your textbook, paper, pencil, and highlighter.
2. Write notes in the textbook and highlight important topics with your highlighter if the instructor refers to information in the textbook.
3. When taking notes from the instructor's lecture, write down the main points. Avoid writing every word down; rather, be concise and to the point when taking notes.
4. Listen carefully and do not be afraid to ask questions if you do not understand the material.
5. Actively participate in classroom discussions.
6. Read your assignments before the next class meets. You will then be able to ask questions about the information which you do not understand.
7. Set up a study schedule and follow it. Allow enough time for all your classes. Keep up with your assignments daily or weekly at the very least. This will help you avoid having to "cram" at the last minute.

Tips for studying:

1. Select the best time for you to study. Develop a study plan and follow it. Refer to the Time Management information in this handbook. (page 43)
2. Select a quiet place to study. Be aware of proper lighting and ventilation. Sit upright at a desk.
3. Avoid all interruptions (TV, phone, radio, conversations).
4. Be prepared. Have all materials (pencils, paper, dictionary, synonym book).
5. Keep a list of things you have to do with their corresponding deadlines in a calendar. Update the list when projects are accomplished.
6. Review class notes the day you write them. Rewrite your notes if they are not clearly organized and underline important information.
7. Survey the chapter you are about to read in order to get an overview of the content and where the author is headed.
8. Be strict with your study time. It takes discipline and determination to stick to your study time.
9. Reread information you do not understand until it becomes clear. If you still have problems comprehending the information, ask your instructor or see a tutor.

Tips for preparing for a test:

1. Find out as much information about the test as possible from the instructor:
 - A. Type of test (objective, essay, true/false, etc.)
 - B. The number of questions and how many points they are worth.
 - C. The material to be covered.
 - D. The value of the test toward the final grade.
2. Set up an exam study schedule so that you will not be overwhelmed at testing time.
3. Know your own best time to study. Most people learn best during the daylight hours.



4. Review as actively as possible. Write down information you wish to remember and highlight key concepts in your textbook. Make flash cards to assist in memorization of test material.
5. Make up an exam as if you were the instructor and then take the exam.
6. Pay attention to troublesome points. Make another list for these areas on separate flash cards.
7. Organize your thoughts for possible essay questions. Know the concept about which you are writing.
8. Avoid "cramming" for tests. This is only a temporary measure and is seldom effective.

Tips for taking the test:

1. Get to class early.
2. Be prepared with pen and other materials requested by the instructor (for example: blue book, scantron answer sheet, etc.).
3. Understand the test instructions. Ask questions for clarification before the test begins.
4. Be aware of how much time you have to complete the test.
5. Skim the entire test first. Note the point value and the types of questions.
6. Answer the easier questions first, leaving appropriate time for the rest.
7. Look for key words on true/false questions such as "always," "sometimes," "never," "usually."
8. On multiple choice questions, eliminate the obviously incorrect answer first.
9. On matching questions, answer those items which you are sure of and check them off.
10. On essay questions, outline in your mind how to organize your answer before you begin writing.
11. If you have time at the end of the test, reread all of your answers.
12. Be confident and think positively. Do not let anxiety determine the outcome.