

Academic Success Workshop

Steps to Academic Success

The Learning Center
California State University, Fresno



Courtesy of: The Learning Center at California
State University, Fresno

Objectives

- Become familiar with college expectations.
- Understand classroom etiquette.
- Understand the steps for academic success
- Learn how to interact with professors.
- Discuss the importance of developing peer groups.
- Understand the importance of academic reputation.

What to Expect

- Varying Class Sizes & Types:
 - 100+ lecture
 - 15+ seminar course
 - 5+ discussion
 - 25+ lab course
- A lot of reading, and a lot of writing!
 - ASW – MLA/APA Format

Classroom Etiquette

- Come to class prepared to discuss
- Laptop users: Don't surf the web during class
- Turn your phone off during class
 - No texting
- Contribute to the discussion
- Ask questions

Academic Reputation

- “80% of success is showing up.”

- Woody Allen

- Academic reputation, like any reputation, will follow you wherever you go.

- Get good grades, a high G.P.A speaks volumes about you and your work ethic.

- Interact with your professors (they may write great letters of recommendation later on).

- Get involved with campus activities. Athletic, academic, or cultural events are always taking place and you never know who you might meet there.

Steps to Success

- Attend class
- Be organized
- Budget your time well
 - ASW – Strategic Time Management
- Treat each class as if it were a job
- Take good notes
- Learn good textbook reading skills
 - ASW – Textbook Tactics
- Study smarter, not harder
- Learn how to take exams
 - ASW – The Exam Game Plan
- Learn how to relax
 - ASW – The Art of Relaxation

Interacting with Professors

- Utilize office hours, posted on the syllabus
 - Most professors will tell you if they prefer to be contacted via phone or email – make a note on the syllabus for future reference
- Read professor's bio, if it is available
- Address professor with formal title (Dr. ____)
- Don't hesitate to contact your professor if you need additional assistance or are concerned about your performance in class

Developing Peer Groups

- Peer groups are an extended support network that can help you during the academic year:
 - Get to know peers in your class.
 - Set up study groups or compare notes.
- Be involved in events around campus:
 - Look at the university's calendar of events
 - Community involvement is good for scholarship applications and résumés