



10 Tips for Academic Success



Effective methods of studying are unique to each student. Regardless of your major, a consistent system of studying is vital. The following guidelines have assisted students to achieve top academic performance:

1. If possible, select a variety of classes that allow you to utilize your strengths and improve your weaknesses (Example: If you are a natural writer, consider taking an English or literature course in addition to more challenging math or science courses). This is especially important during the first year of college. **Choose your credit load wisely.**
2. Determine the time of day when you are most **alert**, and schedule difficult classes and/or homework during those hours whenever possible.
3. **The syllabus** is the first step to understanding the purpose and goals of the class. Read and highlight it. When you get confused with assignments, refer to the syllabus to get the whole picture.
4. Use your course syllabi to record the dates of exams/papers due for each class, in addition to final exams.
5. Know what each of your exams is worth and plan your preparation accordingly. This is especially important during final exams, when study time may be more limited. Early preparation is crucial to success.
6. Develop a **time-management** system. For one week, keep track of what you do every day under the column "Actual". Next week, "Plan" what you are going to do (including studying) and write what you actually did. Continue this program until your study habits have become just that – a habit!
7. Discover your **learning style**. Are you an auditory, visual, or kinesthetic learner? Find strategies that allow you to study in a way that is congruent with your style.
8. Remember, **retention comes from repetition**. Starting the first week of class, begin to set aside blocks of time during the day to review lecture material for exams. The more you review along the way, the more confident you'll be when preparing for the exam. Additionally, reviewing for exams along the way will help lessen anxiety.
9. **Learn from previous exams**, quizzes, and homework assignments. Do an error analysis for each by asking:
 - Did I study the wrong material?
 - Are there topics/concepts I should have spent more time on (identify them)?
 - Did I miss the questions because I didn't know the material or misread the directions?
 - Did I run out of time?
10. Get familiar with **campus resources** to develop better study strategies, time management, and stress management techniques.

For more study help, contact Shannon Patterson, Study Skills Consultant, at slp711@lehigh.edu