

20 Quick Tips for Academic Success

1. **Come up with a study plan** – Which study strategies have worked for you in the past? Which have not? How do you want to study for a particular course? Ask your professor for feedback on your plan.
2. **Prepare for class** – take a look at material to be covered; read (or skim) the chapter before class
3. **Be engaged during class** - Participate... not necessarily by raising your hand, but by staying awake, taking good notes, thinking through the material being presented, and making a note of material that's confusing or any questions you have.
4. **Review notes frequently** – Minutes a week of review can help you to avoid hours of trying to relearn forgotten material right before a test.
5. **Go to class and complete all work** – Enough said!
6. **Meet with professors** – Let them see you as a motivated student! Give them the opportunity to see what you know and what you can do. Ask questions, seek out clarification, ask for study tips.
7. **Use your daytime hours to study** – Try to complete some work during gaps in your schedule during the day as this will lessen your workload in the evening.
8. **Do not procrastinate!** – “I’m too tired ... I can get up early tomorrow morning and do it” or “It’s going to take me too long, I can’t start that tonight!” Sound familiar? Don’t make excuses, just do it!
9. **Study as you go** – Learn new material after each lecture. If you don’t get it, take the time to figure it out *right away*. Ask a classmate or jot down your question and ask your professor the next day. Study new material as if there will be a quiz on it the next class.
10. **Study actively** – *Do something* with new material. Read your notes out loud, reorganize them. Draw pictures, make charts. Do a problem or two. Teach the concept to someone else!
11. **Form a study group** – Never underestimate the value of your peers, especially when working through a difficult problem set or reading assignment.
12. **Set small, hourly study goals** – Break large assignments into smaller ones (read a long chapter by breaking it down into just a few pages at a time, for example)
13. **Take short frequent study breaks** – Walk around or get a snack. When you come back, do a 3 minute review and then jump into new material. You might also try switching subjects frequently. If you can’t switch subjects, change the type of work you’re doing. So, for example, if you’re doing problems, stop and read for a bit, then review notes, then go back to problems.
14. **Prioritize** – What’s most important? What’s most difficult? What do I need to spend the most time on? What do I need to start today? What needs to be done every day?
15. **Ask for help** – And don’t wait until it’s too late! The earlier the better.
16. **Practice self-discipline & form habits** – If you have to do math homework, set a time to do it, and then when that time comes, sit down and do it. Don’t hem and haw or argue or bargain with yourself.
17. **Study in a distraction-free space** – It doesn’t have to be the same space all the time as there is some evidence to suggest that changing locales might positively impact how you remember things – just be sure you can focus and that your work has your full attention!
18. **Test yourself** - Regular testing can help us learn and recall information, and it gives us practice for the real thing! Get together with classmates and try to predict test questions.
19. **Keep a positive attitude** – Be confident in your abilities and try to relax! Post positive and encouraging messages in your study space. If you are worried about something, write it down and set it aside to be taken care of later.
20. **Stay motivated** – Remember your goals or set goals if you haven’t. (Why am I taking this class? How does it get me closer to my goal?) Make study fun - use color and draw pictures when taking or reviewing notes. Reward yourself for study goals met or for success on quizzes and exams.