

How to Succeed as a Student

There are a whole range of factors which lead to academic success, far beyond the simple notion of 'hard work'. Focussed and consistent effort is important, but academic success comes not necessarily from working *harder*, but from working *smarter* – that is, by applying effective study strategies to aid concentration, memory, endurance as well as personal organisation and time management. Read through the guidelines below for our advice on how to give yourself the best possible chance of achieving your academic goals.

1. Get organised early!

The attitude, organisational strategies and study habits you adopt at the *start* of the semester will have a big impact on your overall success in your course. Developing your own personal timetable and study plan is a very important first step. Establishing a strategic approach and a good study routine early on will hold you in good stead for the remainder of your course. Refer to our Getting Started Checklist to ensure that you have completed all the essential tasks at the start of the semester so that you can get on with the important business of learning.

2. Establish a designated study space

Decide upon where you are going to do your study and set up the space with everything you need. If you have a desk at home, make sure that the area is well-lit and free of excess clutter. Ideally, your study space needs to be situated where there are minimal distractions. For some students, home isn't the best place to study due to noise levels or unavoidable interruptions. If this is the case, consider an alternative, such as designating regular time in your weekly schedule to study in the campus or local library.

3. Attend your classes

This may sound painfully obvious, but attending your classes is the number one most important factor in determining your success in your course. If you skip classes, you will not only miss out on important course content but you will also miss out on vital information about assessment requirements and due dates. In addition, skipping classes leads to decreased motivation as you will lose momentum and feel disconnected from your classmates. Many students find it difficult to return to class after the series of absences, due to feelings of anxiety over having to catch up – as a result, they tend to avoid returning and fall further and further behind. Keep in the loop and keep up the momentum – attend all of your classes!

4. Plan your week

As a full-time student, your course doesn't need to be the *only* thing in your life (and we know that allocating time for relaxation, exercise and social connection is essential to wellbeing) but it does need to be your *main* focus as it is your full-time occupation. You will need to allocate regular blocks of time each week for study and assignments, otherwise life will inevitably get in the way and time will slip by. Use a weekly planner, diary, app or whatever method works for you and create a plan that will help you to maintain an effective balance between work, study and life.

5. Adopt a strategic approach

Being successful in your course is not just about working *hard*, it is also about working *effectively*. Work strategically by breaking down tasks into manageable chunks and by using study strategies that have been proven to be effective. Set achievable goals for yourself and aim to complete assessment tasks *before* the due date so that you have time to obtain feedback from your teacher before the final submission.

6. Access your allies

Your teachers are there to provide feedback on your course progress as well as answer questions about the course content and assessment requirements, so don't be afraid to reach out to them! Asking for help when you need it – whether it is from your teacher or our Academic Skills Advisor is a key strategy that will increase your chances of success in your course. In addition, it is helpful to form networks with your classmates so that you can discuss the course content and support one another. If you experience any difficulties or anticipate that your personal or medical circumstances may impact your capacity to learn or meet assessment requirements, contact [Student Life](#) so that the appropriate supports can be put in place for you.