

Top 15 Keys to Academic Success

How to Reach the Mountaintop in
College



1. Be in Class

- Consistent attendance
- Be prepared and on time

Why?

- Class notes are personal observations
- 84% of students who receive an A or B attend class regularly
- At Auburn, each time you miss a class for a 3 hr credit, you blow \$33 (out-of-state)



2. Complete Work on Time

- Guarantee: Professors have a policy on late work
- Schedule in advance to have time to work on assignments

Example: An average English paper may be 20% of final grade and the teacher may take 10 pts. off each day late. For a paper two days late, go ahead and take 4 points off of your final grade even if your paper is perfect.



3. Establish Time Management

Know what needs to be done and when to do it

Step 1: Create a semester schedule

- Mark tests, papers, holidays, and other big events

Step 2: Create weekly calendars

- Daily priorities, work,

Step 3: Compare and adjust



4. Critique Your Study Habits

Top 2 Things to Examine in Your Habits

1. Location-where should you study
2. Time-when and how much I study?

Where: private, not too comfortable (avoid napping areas), access to fresh air, minimized distractions

When: after and before class, regular cumulative review, high energy period

Cramming Syndrome: short-term learning, not practical, unhealthy, crowds at study locations



5. Use Study Groups

- Have a focus or priority in the group
- Address trouble areas (ask questions)
- Talk about areas the professor might emphasize on a test

Why?

- Helps with auditory and kinesthetic learners
- Social aspect



6. Active Learning in the Classroom

- Greater student participation = increased learning
- Location in classroom-middle and front seats correlate to A's and B's
- Seek teachers who involve students



7. See Teachers Outside Class

- Take advantage of office hours
 - AND...don't be afraid scheduling additional appointments
- DO NOT wait until the last minute...be consistent (make a lasting impression)
- Have questions and materials ready
 - Do not waste your teachers' time
- Show a desire to learn, not a desire to have your grade bumped up



8. Improve Critical Thinking Skills

- What is critical thinking?
 - Ability to recognize evidence and form well-reasoned arguments
- Not an overnight process
- Four Steps
 1. Use details to identify bigger picture
 2. Facts + Creativity = Creative thinking (seek new solutions)
 3. Organize thoughts, eliminate contradictions
 4. Precise Communication-target audience, etc.



9. Use campus information resources efficiently

- Define your need for information
- Use librarians to teach you about information searches (that is part of their job!)
- Start your search early, it may take awhile
 - Research and paper in 1 day-NOT GOOD!
- If your college offers a library, use that as well (Ex. Education and the LRC)



10. Write to Your Best Ability

- Academic success hinges on writing
 - At least 12 hours come from English classes

Three Major Steps to Improving

1. Prewriting-complete research, outline thoughts (doesn't have to be formal)
2. Drafting-realize that this is not your final paper, write for order and consistency
3. Revising-see your instructor, reread, smooth transitions, etc.



11. See Your Academic Advisor

- Visit during advising period (see Auburn website under student section)
- Come familiar with courses, have questions ready
- Keep a folder with information given to you by your advisor
- Other Resources to Use: Academic Success Center, Students with Disabilities, Student Counseling, Career Services



12. Visit the Career Services

- Location: Mary Martin Hall
- What they offer:
 - Personality and career assessment tests
 - Job databases
 - Resume and interview assistance
 - Job fairs
 - Career counseling
 - Internships
 - Plus More...
- It never hurts to get prepared early

13. Using Campus Resources

Big Question: Do I know where to get help when I need it?

Some Key Resources:

- English Writing Center-Haley
- Study Partners-Library Basement
- Supplemental Instruction
- PASS
- See www.auburn.edu/tutoring



14. Using Criticism

- Remember, it is the teacher's job to provide feedback (grades are accompanied by explanation)
- See feedback as filling in the gap between success and failure
- Taking criticism poorly will prevent you from seeking help when you need it most
 - (Ex. I hate that teacher. He gave me an F. I'm not going to talk to him. Unanswered Question = Wrong Answer)



15. Establish Purpose

- Know why you are at college
- Purpose provides motivation



Questions

