

General Guidelines to Achieve Academic Success

As an international student studying at an American university, you might face different challenges such as achieving academic success that you can overcome if you try to follow some useful success guiding principles.

1. **Maintain a positive attitude.** Try to find positive reasons for studying and improving your English language because this will motivate you to better yourself and to overcome any learning obstacle.
2. **Attend lectures.** Do not miss any lecture unless there is an emergency. The first lecture is in particular very important because the instructor explains the syllabus, rationale, rules and regulations, assignments, and other important information related to the course.
3. **Be punctual.** Arrive always ten to five minutes before your class begins so as not to disturb your classmates and your instructor. Also, you don't want to miss important announcements and crucial information that normally your instructor will mention at the beginning of the lecture.
4. **Prepare by reading the material before class.** Reading the material will help you understand the instructor's explanations, and will help you take better notes.
5. **Learn how to take clear organized notes.** Learning different methods of note taking will help you understand the material, and will help you study better for your exams. Remember your notes should be organized, brief, and focused.
6. **Participate in class as much as possible.** Participating by asking questions, answering questions, or responding to students comments will help become an active learner and help you process and understand the material.
7. **Budget your time.** Divide and plan every hour of your time by including time for preparation, reviewing, studying, relaxing, sleeping, eating, and having fun.
8. **Study actively.** When studying, do not just read passively. Think, analyze, relate, take notes, annotate, ask questions, and outline information. In other words, learn how to become an active learner.
9. **Prepare for assignments and exams ahead of time.** Do not leave your preparation and studying till the last minute. Remember that you need to spend more time than native speakers on studying or finishing an assignment.
10. **Avoid intentional and unintentional plagiarism.** Plagiarism or copying information from other sources will lead to harsh undesirable consequences. You must learn how to document and cite every little piece of information following either MLA, APA, or any other writing method that your instructor will ask for.
11. **Make use of university resources.** Use the library, use the writing center help, make use of the instructor's office hours, seek the help of your advisors, colleagues, tutors, and any person or university facility.