

General Strategies for Success For College Students

1. Keep only one calendar with all relevant dates, assignments, and appointments. Do not try to keep a schedule in your head. The Hawkeye Student Handbook is an excellent planner for you to use.
2. Sit toward the front of the classroom to maximize your contact and to reduce distractions.
3. Use a tape recorder during lectures.
4. Indicate questions in margins when material is unclear. Ask for clarification.
5. Estimate how long a given class assignment will take, generally planning on two hours outside of class for every hour in class. Build in study breaks; fatigue is a big time waster.
6. Make sure you have understood the assignment correctly and completely. If uncertain, schedule an appointment with your professor. Don't wait until you have finished the assignment to find out that you have not fulfilled the requirements.
7. Work backwards from due date on long-range assignments and build in extra time. Go over this timeline with your professor and ask for feedback on your progress periodically. Make sure you have understood the assignment correctly and completely before plunging in or soon after you have started by scheduling an appointment with your professor early. Don't wait until you have finished the assignment to find out that you have not fulfilled the requirements.
8. Often the hardest part of getting your work done on time and keeping up with the workload is getting started on a new assignment. Start by making a commitment of 30 minutes and then lengthen the studying periods gradually.
9. If you have trouble recognizing and correcting spelling errors in your writing, it is important to use a word processor with a spellchecker to identify misspelled words. However, proper nouns and homonym errors will not be identified. If your professor agrees, have instructors in the Academic Support area proofread your paper and assist you in error identification and correction.
10. Reach out for assistance early, if needed. Schedule an appointment with your professor when you begin to get confused or flounder. Do not wait until you are already in danger of failing the course.
11. Be aware of Drop/Add and Pass/Fail options and deadlines to adjust your schedule. Use them to your advantage to enhance success.
12. Schedule early for the next term so you will get the classes and times that best suit your situation.
13. Schedule a regular time each week in the Academic Support Center, a walk-in learning assistance center located in Bremer Hall, Room 116. Instructors can help you with math, science, writing, English, technical reading, and study skills. The area includes a large study room, a classroom, and an open computer lab as well as specialized equipment (reading machines, enlargers, etc.)