

40 Characteristics of Successful Students

Read this list of characteristics of successful college students, and check how each one describes you.

| DO YOU... | USUALLY | SOME-TIMES | SELDOM |
|--|---------|------------|--------|
| 1. Identify your long-term goals | | | |
| 2. Attend all classes, except when ill or in case of emergency. | | | |
| 3. Complete all assigned reading before class. | | | |
| 4. Bring books, paper, pencils, and other necessary materials to class. | | | |
| 5. Get phone numbers of a few classmates who take good notes, in case of an unavoidable absence. | | | |
| 6. Arrive on time to classes. | | | |
| 7. Sit near the front, where it's easier to pay attention. | | | |
| 8. Think actively during classes. | | | |
| 9. Participate in class by responding and asking appropriate questions. | | | |
| 10. Remain attentive throughout class. Avoid staring out windows, doodling, having side conversations, texting, or looking at your cell phone. | | | |
| 11. Take accurate and thorough notes and review them soon after class to identify question areas. | | | |
| 12. Compare your class notes with the textbook soon after class, and add details into your notes. | | | |
| 13. Ask questions about course content to clarify understanding. | | | |
| 14. Take advantage of any extra-credit opportunities. | | | |
| 15. Turn in all assignments on time. | | | |
| 16. Word-process written assignments whenever possible. | | | |
| 17. Use a planner to keep track of assignments. | | | |
| 18. Devise and follow a schedule to keep up with reading and other assignments. | | | |
| 19. Set specific goals for each study session. | | | |
| 20. Study where there are no distractions. | | | |
| 21. Vary study tasks, to avoid doing one type of activity for too long. | | | |
| 22. Think about, analyze, and ask questions about what you are reading. | | | |
| 23. Make appointments to see professors with questions about assignments or grades. | | | |
| 24. Begin assignments soon after they are assigned. | | | |

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| 25. Begin writing assignments early enough to allow time for careful revisions and a visit to the Writing Center. | | | |
| 26. Work to increase concentration and decrease procrastination. | | | |
| 27. Use available campus resources such as the Office of Academic Support and the library. | | | |
| 28. Devise a study plan for tests and exams. | | | |
| 29. Study with a study partner or small study group, going over key points. | | | |
| 30. Avoid cramming. | | | |
| 31. Use a variety of study techniques. Don't just memorize. | | | |
| 32. Always attend class when there is a quiz or test. | | | |
| 33. Read and follow all directions on tests and exams. | | | |
| 34. Balance academic work with safe and constructive leisure activities. | | | |
| 35. Get involved in at least one activity on campus, such as a club, organization, or volunteer work. | | | |
| 36. Get adequate sleep. | | | |
| 37. Eat nutritious foods. | | | |
| 38. Avoid smoking, drinking alcohol, and using drugs. | | | |
| 39. Seek help when needed. | | | |
| 40. Enjoy learning. | | | |

To be a more successful student, carefully examine the reasons for any "Seldom" answers, and make a commitment to change them to "Usually."