Top 10 Ways to be More Successful in College

1.) **Examine your learning strengths and concerns.**
   Consider what time of day you work best, what motivates you, and what environment helps you focus best. What areas of time management, goal-setting, reading, writing, studying, note-taking, and test-taking tend to be trouble areas for you? What areas tend to be strengths? Does it vary by subject? You can make a better “game plan” for success if you honestly evaluate what works and doesn’t work for you.

2.) **Manage your time with the goal of BALANCE.**
   Use a calendar or planner to organize due dates, exams, homework, and study sessions. Leave room for getting involved on campus, keeping up with friends, and staying healthy. Figure out how you procrastinate so you can change those habits.

3.) **Attend all classes.**

4.) **Actively read your notes within 24 hours of class.**
   Make a list of topics that you don’t understand; elaborate your class notes with information from the readings; ask a peer for something you may have missed; reorganize some information into charts and concept maps.

5.) **Study actively and regularly.**
   Put things into your own words. Create condensed study sheets. Reorganize information into charts and graphs. Redraw diagrams and processes. Explain things aloud. Think about the exam format as you study. For problem-based classes, work through lots of problems. Use old exams and past homework to practice.

6.) **Effectively use study groups.**
   Find when a study group works best in your study routine (several times before a test? Weekly with homework?). Come prepared with questions and make goals for each session.

7.) **Figure out your purpose for reading.**
   Before you read, think about what you’re reading, what you already know about it, and how it fits into the class. Meet with your professor/peers or consult the syllabus if you’re not sure. What should you be able to do when you’re done reading?

8.) **Read actively.**
   Preview before reading; take notes in the margins; jot down questions; look for patterns; think critically about the arguments. Highlight/underline sparingly.

9.) **Improve your test-taking strategies.**

10.) **Connect with your professors and other campus resources.**
   Go to your professors’ office hours and email them to discuss paper topics and clarify questions. Use GradesFirst to schedule a writing tutor or subject tutor. Visit Career and Employment Services and Counseling and Health Services. Meet with a librarian to help you get started on your research. Meet with your advisor.

What’s the reoccurring theme here? College learning needs to be ACTIVE.

Want to discuss your academic strategies? Then contact Melissa Hediger Gallagher (215.951.5115, hediger@lasalle.edu) to set up an individual appointment.

La Salle University Academic & Learning Support Services: www.lasalle.edu/portal/learningsupport