Successful Students: Guidelines and Thoughts for Academic Success

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Successful students exhibit a combination of successful attitudes and behaviors as well as intellectual capacity. Successful students . . .

1. are responsible and active. Successful students get involved in their studies, accept responsibility for their own education, and are active participants in it!
2. have educational goals. Successful students have legitimate goals and are motivated by what those goals represent in terms of career aspirations and life’s desires.
3. ask questions. Successful students ask questions to provide the quickest route between ignorance and knowledge.
4. Learn that a student and a professor make a team. Most instructors want exactly what you want: they would like for you to learn the material in their respective classes and earn a good grade.
5. Don’t sit in the back. Successful students minimize classroom distractions that interfere with learning.
6. take good notes. Successful students take notes that are understandable and organized, and they review them often.
7. understand that actions affect learning. Successful students know their personal behavior affects their feelings and emotions and in turn can affect learning. Act like you’re disinterested and you’ll become disinterested.
8. talk about what they’re learning. Successful students get to know something well enough that they can put it into words.
9. don’t cram for exams. Successful students know that divided periods of study are more effective than cram sessions, and they practice it.
10. are good time managers. Successful students do not procrastinate. They have learned that time control is life control and have consciously chosen to be in control of their lives.