

# **A Personalized Strategy for Academic Success**

*prepared for:*

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*course:*

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A great deal of academic success can be attributed not to personal gifts, but to personal habits. Students who wish to improve academically should consider the following strategies:

- sitting up front in class;
- sitting apart from students who may wish to socialize during class;
- taking notes in class—even if handouts or PowerPoints are provided online;
- organizing all notes and handouts into a logical system of units and themes;
- asking questions in class—even if only to confirm understanding of issues or concepts;
- seeking to understand concepts as opposed to memorizing them;
- seeking to place individual concepts within a larger context (*i.e. see the “big picture”*);
- seeking to establish logical links between newly examined material and previously learned material;
- completing homework during class time, or as soon after class as is possible;
- working ahead on assignments and projects (*This tends to reduce panic while at the same time increasing motivation.*);
- examining marking schemes or rubrics before completing assignments;
- examining titles and headings before reading the actual content of a handout or textbook (*This allows the student to place the material within context while he/she is reading.*);
- reading with a goal of learning specific concepts or answering specific questions—as opposed to wandering aimlessly through pages of text;
- making use of review sheets while studying;
- completing any practice tests or assignments that may be available.

The teacher and parent(s) might wish to consider exploring any of the following strategies:

- Parent(s): Talk to your child every day to learn how he/she is progressing with course work.
- Parent(s): Ensure that your child dedicates sufficient time to reading the course text and addressing course work on a daily basis.
- Parent(s): Ensure that your child has a quiet, well-organized work space.
- Parent(s): Ensure that your child has a large calendar placed somewhere in open view. (*Both the students and the parents should have access to this calendar. All curricular and extra-curricular demands should be recorded on the calendar. Scheduling should include preparation and process time—not just due dates.*)
- Parent(s): Ensure that your child obtains a sufficient amount of sleep every night. (*The National Sleep Foundation suggests that teens require about nine hours of sleep each night.*)
- Parent(s): Ensure that your child does not skip breakfast. (*Effective learning and class participation requires concentration, and concentration requires energy.*)
- Teacher: Set up a time for extra help. (*Note: This offer is contingent upon the student making productive use of class time. Extra help is not intended to provide an “alternative” to classroom instruction.*)
- Teacher: Arrange for the student to meet regularly with a peer tutor at school.
- Teacher and Parent(s): Draw up a behavioral contract that clearly sets out a series of expectations for the student. This contract can also outline the consequences that will follow if the student falls short of the stated expectations.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Web Directions