

Specific behaviors to improve your grades:

(Components taken from the National Survey for Student Engagement NSSE)

Trying harder, and **studying more**, are nice goals, but without specific changes in behavior, usually do not produce the results you are seeking. So, if you are like most of us, and don't know what to DO to change your results, consider discussing these strategies with your academic advisor.

Learning Strategies:

1. Outline the chapter of your book before class. Take that outline to class.
2. Review your notes after class, comparing your chapter outline to notes from your class lecture.
3. Summarize what you heard in class. After class, take 5 minutes to outline the major points you heard. Test yourself, and compare with your notes.
4. Spend more time studying outside of class. Plan time for homework and utilizing tutoring labs (ARC). If you want to improve, you will almost certainly have to spend more time on task. So schedule three or four 30-45 minute study sessions to summarize what you've heard in class, and re-copy or outline your own notes.
5. Prepare two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in. It is so tempting to write it once, but try writing/re-writing at least twice. You'll be surprised how it improves.
6. Discuss course topics, ideas, or concepts with a faculty member outside of class. Schedule a 15-minute appointment during that faculty member's office hours. Bring examples and questions.
7. Discuss your academic performance with a faculty member. Schedule an appointment, prepare ahead, and bring your notes and syllabus.

Collaborative Learning:

1. Prepare for exams by discussing or working through course materials with other students. Meet for a Pepsi, and compare notes. Quiz each other. Talk about your outlines.
2. Ask other students to help you. Have them edit your notes, or quiz you for fun. Make it a game.
3. Help other students. Talk about your notes/outlines together.
4. Work with other students on course projects or assignments. Though you can't share content, you can serve as a "consultant" or ask for advice on the big picture. *"Toughing it out" on your own, is NOT a strategy for success!*

Quantitative Reasoning:

1. Reach for conclusions based on your own analysis of numerical info (numbers, graphs, statistics).
2. Attempt to explain your answers with the use of numbers. Explain measurements of how you reached your answer. Create graphs, charts, pictures in your studying, or group studying.
3. Use numerical info to examine a real-world problem or issue (change, public health, etc.)
4. In preparing for class/tests, link your answers to numbers/info from daily life.

Reflective Learning:

1. Examine the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue. Critique your own work. Pretend you are editing someone else work, and note what makes sense and what doesn't.
2. Try to understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective. Based on your discussion, try to argue the issue from their side. See if you can imagine it through their eyes.
3. Connect your learning to societal problems or issues. See if you can link your learning to a current event/issue.

Work Closely with Your Faculty:

1. Get to know your faculty! Know their name, their office location/hours. Study the syllabus for the class.
2. What are the instructor's course goals and requirements? Do you know these? How can you get them?
3. Ask about examples or illustrations to explain difficult points. Check for class/online materials, go to the ARC or other labs for one-on-one support. Schedule an appointment with your instructor, but come well prepared.
4. Seek instructor feedback on a paper or project draft or work in progress. Visit with instructor on office hours.
5. Request detailed feedback on tests or completed assignments.