

Archived "Tips of the Week"

"Professor Tip of the Week"

"Nothing -- absolutely nothing -- is more important with any assignment, large or small, than following instructions. Never skim instructions -- read every word two, even three times before starting every assignment, and once again once you're well into it." --Dr. Chip Rogers, Assistant Professor of English

"Read your course syllabi to determine the due dates for assignments from each course. Plan to complete each assignment at least one day before the due date. This will give you time to address unplanned issues." --Mr. Johnathan Yerby, Lecturer of Information Technology

"Writing a research paper: Try to create your own topic instead of choosing from a list of topics. Run your idea by your instructor and consider him or her your partner throughout the research and writing process." --Mr. Jonas Strecker, Assistant Professor of English & German

"When writing about the events in stories (in a book, a film, etc.) use the present tense. While it seems like everything in a story "happened" in the past when you get to the end of the book or film, the events will "happen" again in the present if you watch or read it again. As a result, we write about the events in such stories in the present tense (e.g.: "John catches the ball." Not: "John caught the ball."). This convention is called the literary present." --Dr. David Sidore, Associate Professor of English and Media Studies

"Make the first move. So many students hang back and wait for someone else to act first. Be the brave warrior, and take a chance by thinking independently. There's nothing more dull than a roomful of students saying what they think their professor wants to hear."--Dr. Heather Braun, Assistant Professor of English

"A good writer takes a complex subject and makes it sound simple. A poor writer takes a simple subject and makes it sound complicated. Keep it simple. Don't make the reader work too hard." -- Dr. Jonas Strecker, Assistant Professor of English and Reading

"Persistence is a key ingredient to earning a degree. Most students will encounter "speed bumps" during their college career. Successful students will find ways to overcome those speed bumps and not let them become roadblocks." -- Ms. Valerie Beaman-Hackle, Assistant Professor of Mathematics

"Plan a study schedule each day and stick to it! This will allow you to get the rest you need the night before an exam and will set you up for success!" --Ms. Teri Miller, Chair and Assistant Professor of Respiratory Therapy

"Organize your work! Instead of a piece of 'scratch paper,' use a sheet of paper." --Professor Don Brown, Associate Professor of Mathematics, and Professor Barbara Jolley, Associate Professor of Mathematics

"Ask when you don't understand something. Professors often don't know when you are struggling with something, so ask! --Dr. Shane Trayers, Assistant Professor of English

“Always try to read your course text with purpose. Staying actively engaged in your readings not only increases comprehension but also helps develop curiosity and interest in the material.” –Ms. Jeannie Ruggerio, Coordinator of the WR Academic Resource Center, Adjunct Professor of Political Science

“Alert yourself. At the beginning of the semester, put all deadlines from your syllabi into the calendar you use most on your phone/Ipad/computer. Set beeping and email alerts to remind you one week before and then again closer to each deadline. This keeps assignments from taking you by surprise. And many of us simply need “beeping” reminders once in a while. Just be sure to turn off these devices before class.” --Dr. Heather Braun, Assistant Professor of English

“Remain alert and concise when you are taking notes by listening for intention and emphasis on concepts, key facts, and explanations. To avoid feeling overwhelmed before an exam, try to review your notes regularly.” –Ms. Jeannie Ruggerio, Coordinator of the WR Academic Resource Center, Adjunct Professor of Political Science

“Proofread. Beyond the fact that you are responsible for anything your error-correcting software changes, careless work reflects on your attitude toward the assignment. If you don’t care about what you’ve written, why should the reader?” –Dr. David Sidore, Associate Professor of English and Media Studies

“Keep track of your academic goals or degree plan. See your academic advisor to ensure that you are working towards achieving your goal. Take advantage of early registration.” --Mr. Johnathan Yerby, Lecturer of Information Technology

“Put your pen to paper. This may not sound like a big deal, but it will make a big difference. Taking notes means you’re moving from a passive to an active role in your classes. It also shows the professor and other students that this is acceptable behavior. Finally, you will really appreciate these notes when exam time comes around.” --Dr. Heather Braun, Assistant Professor of English

“Read. Whether it is a textbook or a novel, reading helps you understand, it expands your world, and it helps you be a better writer.” –Dr. Shane Trayers, Assistant Professor of English

“Read all assigned material with a highlighter (or pen) in hand. Simply being concerned about what’s important enough to highlight focuses your attention more powerfully, and you’ll retain more even if you never come back to reread what you’ve highlighted.” --Dr. Chip Rogers, Assistant Professor of English

“Find a study partner that is taking the same course. As you discuss the class, share your understanding of concepts to help each other. If you can explain concepts to someone else, you are more likely to understand the material.” --Mr. Johnathan Yerby, Lecturer of Information Technology

"Student Tip of the Week"

"You have to set short-term goals for each semester. You have to write them down to remind yourself, e.g. 'How many A's do I want?' Cut down time spent socializing with friends. Focus is important for all

the semesters in school. Have friends that are goal oriented. Be proactive. Talk to your instructors and use their office time to go ask them questions. The tutors are great resources. Use this resource from the 1st time you start school." – Olu

"Know your voice! Get to know all of your resources around campus. It is GREAT to have a connection in every department." – Navatni

"One way to be successful in college is to seek help immediately if you are having difficulty in a certain subject. Macon State College offers tutoring in the ARC, and it is a total waste of time trying to figure out something that you don't understand when there are resources available to help you."—Elizabeth

"To be successful in college, I have learned to stay ahead of the game! Reading assignments should be done prior to the day of the class. Reading before the day of lecture will give you an opportunity to become familiar with the reading material before you learn about it in class." –Liz

" When I'm feeling overwhelmed and stressed with school and work, going to the gym for a 45 minute workout helps me relieve stress and gives me energy." – Mickie

"Be sure to write your first and last name on your flash drive." – Navatni

"Go to every class. Many times professors will give you added information in their lectures that will appear as bonus questions on tests and quizzes. Also be on time for class." – Tracy

"Be nice to the librarians...you never know when you will need their help!" –Amy

"Early to bed early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."—Benjamin Franklin (suggested by Carlos)

"Do a little work each day so you are not bogged down later. Don't wait until the last minute!" –Amy

"If a professor uses Powerpoint, print out the slides and use them in class for notes. Ask a librarian how to print them out with note lines next to each slide." –Tracy

"Make sure you always pay attention in class. Be sure to always turn everything in on time and take your time on everything you do." –Morgan

"Take advantage of any resources available to you, like a tutoring session. All the help you can possibly get is right there in the ARC." –Carla

"Find a study partner that holds you accountable." –Brandy

"Read ahead for each class and participate. This is a good way to boost your grade because the professor will see that you are interested in learning." –Tracy

“Use your time wisely. Manage your time. Take time out to study. Don’t wait until the last minute to get something done.” –Carla

“Study hard for finals, but do not overwhelm yourself. Overwhelming yourself can actually make you worry about things that will not even affect you.” –Trey

“Do one subject at a time. Give that subject all of your attention before moving on.” –Reshonda

“Find a comfortable study area. I learned that the library is my most comfortable study area.” –Dana

"Tutor Tip of the Week"

"Make a study schedule. When making a study schedule, make sure to do so in pencil in order to make unexpected changes. Try to schedule in 45-50 minute study sessions with 10 minute breaks." --Burgandy Mathis, Part-time Academic Resource Specialist, Warner Robins ARC

"Build a relationship with a mentor early on. This could be a faculty/staff member or an upper-level student. Go to them for advice, encouragement, or discussion." -- Laine Adams, Part-time Academic Resource Specialist

"Attend class! Even if it's not required, it can be the biggest and easiest factor in making a good grade in the class." – Andrew

“Find out your specific learning style! Knowing this can help you create a more productive study session.” –James

“Show what you know. When taking a math test, show each step and formula you used. Pretend the teacher has no idea how to solve the problem. That way, you will earn at least partial credit if not full credit for the problem.” – Cynthia

“Do not forget / be afraid to ask questions. Odds are 15 other people in the class will have the same question; you were just brave enough to ask.” –Stephanie

“Sometimes failing is necessary. It gives the motivation to be more focused and study harder.” –Erika

“If a professor makes Powerpoints available on Vista, print them and bring them to class to use as you take notes.” –Marsha

“Set time to practice math problems regularly. Any doubts on math concepts, clarify as soon as possible with a tutor. Do not wait until the test!” –Nalini Pattanaik, Academic Resource Specialist, Warner Robins ARC

“Stay afloat (and work ahead if you can). Be proactive by positioning yourself for success in the long term.” –Marie White, Part-time Academic Resource Specialist

“It’s weird, but I find that reading my papers sentence-by-sentence BACKWARDS helps with grammar!” – Amber

“Be interactive. Sit in the front or close to it. It helps keep you part of the discussion and makes it easier to participate.” –Andrew

“Rework homework problems! Professors assign what they want you to know, and working many times will reinforce learning.” –Nick

“Be sure to take study breaks!!! If you stare aimlessly at a textbook, are you really learning anything anyway?” –James

“If you do not understand something, you can utilize a professor’s office hours for this purpose.” –Mary Beth

“The night before a test always eat a healthy dinner, drink lots of water, and try to get to bed early. All the studying in the world won’t help if you aren’t feeling your best.” --Zeke

“While reading your textbook, try to write out a series of questions that you can ask your instructor in class and that can also be used as study material. You can write definition questions (i.e. What is...?), example questions (i.e. What is a good example of...?), or characteristic questions (i.e. How would I describe...?).” --Burgandy Mathis, Part-time Academic Resource Specialist, Warner Robins ARC

“Get involved in a club or school activity! You may meet important new people and become more focused on school.” –Lana

“Try learning material several ways. You can make notecards, draw diagrams, work problems, and, of course, read the textbook.”—Nick