

Library Guides Series No. 5

TIPS FOR ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN UNIVERSITY STUDY

Characteristics of Successful Students

i. Optimism

- When attending a University, part of one's success relies on one's expectations.
- If a student is certain she'll succeed, then she will put in her best effort into everything that she does. Positive thinking really does work wonders!

ii. Motivation

- Anyone who is even thinking of enrolling in a university program is motivated, but it is essential for a student to maintain her motivation.

iii. Persistence

- Like motivation, persistence makes the difference between a student who starts a university education program and a student who completes one.

iv. Strong work ethic

- Successful university students in are willing to work hard, period.

v. Self-advocacy

- A self-advocating student believes in her ability to complete her university education and is willing to do whatever it takes to make sure he/she gets her degree.

vi. Organization

- The successful student has a consistent, effective system of organization that includes her time, materials and money.

Practices of Successful University Study

i. Limit yourself on social media\ Use it as a learning tool for your Studies

- This includes Social media e.g. WhatsApp, Twitter etc. and others such as television, video games, and Internet sites.
- First & foremost: you are here in University to learn.
- We are not saying that *You don't have access and use social media*, but concentrate on learning first, then if you have free time, get on social media.
- Besides use social media for academic purposes e.g exchanging notes and ideas with your colleagues

ii. Set an academic goal for yourself.

- In the increasingly competitive world the quality of the certificate you present to your employer is very important.
- What quality of degree do you wish to obtain? First class? Upper Second class, or Lower Second class or a pass
- If you don't set any academic goal, *you might leave university wondering whether you tried enough especially when you face it out there in the job market.*

iii. Form good study habits.

- Everyone studies in a different way.
- Some people like studying in groups
- Others prefer solitary study.
 - ❖ Find out what habits work best for you.
E.g. *How much time does it take an idea to stick for you?*
What time of the day do you work best?

iv. Know when your assignments are due and take them deadlines seriously

- When your teacher passes out the course outline the day's assignments like homework and term papers due so you will have time to complete them,
- In doing assignment allow yourself time to work on it exhaustively so that are you not as stressed or avoid shoddy work due to last minute rush.
- Study well in advance for CATs
- Do your homework as soon as you get it.
- You'll feel a lot better and freer when you have no homework. You'll be able to attend to other things an assignment which is hanging on your neck.

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❑

vi. **Avoid procrastination.**

- ❑ In university education you are expected to analyze ideas more critically rather than reproducing facts given by your teachers.
- ❑ This often means a more time to yourself to reflect on scholarly issues, concepts, Scientific principles, experiments, and experiences than you're used to
- ❑ Therefore you need to practice good time management.
- ❑ It's possible to fit in all the social, academic, and logistical responsibilities in the university and still have time for yourself.
- ❑ Plan. Be realistic about how much time you can devote to social activities and how much time you're going to need to spend reading and writing or other activities.

vii. **Engage with Lecturers.**

- ❑ If you having trouble understanding a particular concept, you can always ask the professor during his/her outside the class so he/she can explain it to you.
- ❑ You can also schedule appointments in case you cannot make his/her office hours.
- ❑ Talk about ideas and methodologies you are having difficulties with, and let the professor know who you are.
- ❑ You will probably get a better grade if your professor knows that you put in the time to seek advice during the term.
 - ❑ Look for a mentor if possible. A mentor will be able to dispense advice, help you choose courses classes
 - ❑ Don't underestimate the importance of a mentor.

viii. **Study hard and smart**

- ❑ There is a lot of knowledge and skills to be mastered by the time you finish University
- ❑ University education is the most important step in learning before to get to the job market.
- ❑ To excel you must be willing to learn, and say no to some events because if you do, you will do much better in your studies.
- ❑ You need to put more time in your studies

ix. **Go to class and be an active participant**

- ❑ Going to class regularly you learn more shows your professor that you want to learn and that you are a serious student. That way they will take you seriously
- ❑ Going to class doesn't mean just sitting there and doodling on your notebook. Answer question, ask questions, and be a participant!

- ❑ Of course be careful not to be the obnoxious guy who tries to answer every question

x. Getting to Know Your Library

- ❑ Whether self-guided, human-led, a library tour curbs the fundamental confusion about where you are within a library and what services and resources you can obtain from the library
- ❑ This will make all the difference when you are looking for some information in a hurry.
- ❑ A simple tour will also expose you to the different forms and locations of library resources, such as help desks, shelves for current journals, reference shelves, e-resources access

xi. Improve your information literacy skills

- ❑ We live in a knowledge society where individual success will depend on one's ability to access and use information /knowledge to create new ideas/innovate and solve problem.
- ❑ Being information literate is the key to being digital compliant
- ❑ **Information literacy:** *The ability to recognize when you need information, knowing where such information is located, how to access it and apply it to the problem or issue facing us*
- ❑ To succeed in university studies you need know how to search for books in the library, how to access and use e-books and e-journals
- ❑ Talk to library staff who will provide a personalized/group training
- ❑ We shall be organizing information literacy training sessions at departmental level make every effort to attend

xii. Take academic honesty seriously.

- ❑ Original work, neat and easy to read, well organized, and demonstrating mastery of the subject matter.
- ❑ Copying exams and other written is one of the most deadly acts of dishonesty world over and which will earn a student at CUEA an automatic expulsion therefore it is better to get a D or fail and do a supplementary exam rather than copy exams
- ❑ Another deadly academic sin is intellectual dishonesty popularly referred to as plagiarism

xiii. Take advantage of Library resources.

- ❑ In the university, there is an abundance of resources available for students to enable them perform well in class
- ❑ The University Library is one such example:
- ❑ The Library provide you with:
 - ❖ Conducive study spaces and discussion areas
 - ❖ Wireless and wired internet access,
 - ❖ PC work stations you can type your assignments
 - ❖ Textbooks,
 - ❖ E-books and e-journals,
 - ❖ Information literacy training,
 - ❖ Advise on your research work,
 - ❖ Connect to libraries in the region,
 - ❖ Mentoring, etc.
 - ❖

xiv. Give us feedback on our services

- ❑ Our vision is to provide you with world class library and information service
- ❑ To do this we need your feedback on how well we are serving you or the challenges you are facing in using the library
- ❑ As a student you talk to me or any of our staff, write to us, with queries
- ❑ Suggest books for purchase or e-mail specific questions to a librarian.
- ❑ Visit the library Facebook page and twitter:

Useful Library Contacts

- ❑ **Email:** University Librarian: librarian@chuka.ac.ke
Customer online Support: libhelp@chuka.ac.ke
- ❑ **Twitter:** @chukalib
- ❑ **Facebook:** Chuka University Library
- ❑ **WhatsApp:** Chuka University Library



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