Success Tools at Collin College

✓ Academic Advising
✓ Career Services
✓ CougarWeb Groups
✓ Counseling Services
✓ Library
✓ Math Labs
✓ Tutoring Services
✓ Writing Center

Collin College
Central Park Campus
2200 W. University Drive
McKinney, Texas 75070

Collin Higher Education Center
3452 Spur 399
McKinney, Texas 75069

Courtyard Center
4800 Preston Park Blvd.
Plano, Texas 75086

Preston Ridge Campus
9700 Wade Blvd.
Frisco, Texas 75035

Spring Creek Campus
2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway
Plano, Texas 75074

Allen Center
Allen High School
300 Rivercrest Blvd.
Allen, Texas 75002

Rockwall Center
2610 Observation Trail
Rockwall, Texas 75032

www.collin.edu

Succeeding in a College Course

14PB-625
So you are starting college – congratulations!!

College is a key component to a successful future and you will find that there are many resources that you can use to attain success. Whether entering college straight out of high school, returning to college after a break or coming for the very first time later in life, there are some basic guidelines that you can follow to ensure success in your college courses.

One of the most important aspects of college success is understanding that the responsibility of learning the course material falls on you. Professors may give great lectures and you may take very in-depth notes, but that doesn’t mean they will always cover all of the information in your textbooks. Be sure to read and study outside of class.

Many college instructors also use pop quizzes to test the students’ knowledge of textbook material. Make sure you read ahead in your textbook before the day of class and keep up with the course syllabus that your professor distributes the first day. Also remember to read the course requirements and write down due dates and exams. Remember, you are responsible for your own success.

#1: Prepare for your classes

- Visit an academic advisor to help build your class schedule.
- Gather all materials needed: textbook, pen or pencil, paper, highlighters, etc.
- Be engaged when you read – write out questions in the margins of your pages to ask during lecture.
- Learn about support services provided by the college and know where to find them.

#2: Go to Class

- Ask questions!
- Do not try to write everything down – capture the main points.
- Professors may not take attendance, but they will notice when you are gone. Attend class each time it meets!
- Choose the right environment, study partners, location and time.
- Prepare in advance for your exams. It helps reduce test anxiety and will help you perform better. Make up your own list of topics you think will be on the test.
- What works for you? Find out your learning style. Take assessments to find out more about you.

#3: Study

- Assemble all the supplies you need: textbook, class notes, handouts, etc.
- Study two to three hours outside of class for every hour you are in class.
- Grades on tests and major papers usually provide most of your course grade. Generally, there are no re-takes, so do your best the first time.

#4: Network

- Join or start a study group.
- Find a study partner in each class.
- Join or start a student organization within your major.
- Volunteer in the community in an area that is related to your major.

#5: Connect with your professors

- Arrive in class on time and be prepared.
- Show your professors you are eager to learn—sit at the front!
- Be attentive and stay focused. Ask questions and respond to the professor’s questions.
- Go visit your professor during their office hours. Professors are here to help you succeed.
- Getting to know your professors can lead to great recommendations or personal references.

#6: Get Organized

- Build a schedule that works for you. Record all of your activities (including class time, study time, work, recreational, etc.) in a planner.
- Set daily and weekly goals to complete the following:
  - Class assignments
  - Major projects or reports
- Take responsibility for how you spend your time.
- Keep to-do lists.