

# Study Habits of Successful Students

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## Basic Study Habits

1. Attend class every day.
2. Read the textbook.
3. Do the assigned homework.
4. Pay attention in class.
5. Take the exams.

## Prepare for Success

6. Read the introduction of the textbook before the course begins. Read the syllabus of the course before the course begins.
7. Read sections in the textbook before the lecture on those topics.
8. Read the homework assignment the day it is distributed to get an idea of what it is and how long it will take to complete it; start early on the assignment.

## Engage the Material

9. Reread *and understand* sections in the textbook after the lecture on those topics.
10. Do problems other than the assigned work (typically two to three times as many as in the homework). Practice, practice, practice.
11. Talk to other students in the class about the material in the class; ask questions in class.
12. Talk to the instructor in office hours when having troubles in the course.

## Practice Excellence

13. After completing your homework, let it sit for a while (a day) and then *recheck* your work.
14. Invent problems related to the material in the course – and then solve them.
15. *Regularly* talking to others in the class (or mentors) to discuss the material, solve problems, and check each other's work.
16. *Regularly* meet with the instructor to discuss the material in the class, not just when in trouble.

## More Habits of Effective Learners

17. Do outside reading and relate it to what you are learning in your classes.
18. Establish a “learning network” – a group of people you can talk to about classes.
19. Demand excellence of yourself: anything less than an A or B is unsatisfactory.
20. Demand excellence of others.

## Homework Tips

1. On the day the assignment is distributed: read each problem on the homework and understand what the problems ask for.
2. On the day after the assignment is distributed: read and understand the parts of the textbook related to the problems. (Don't just try to look for answers to the homework problems.)
3. Two days after the assignment is distributed: try solving the problems. Talk to others about the problems.
4. Write up complete solutions *at least* one day before the assignment is due.
5. A day after writing up your complete solutions, check your answers for errors.

## Recommended Reading

*Professors' Guide to Getting Good Grades in College* by Lynn F. Jacobs and Jeremy S. Hyman.  
*First in the Family: Advice About College from First-Generation Students* by Kathleen Cushman.