September 28, 2012

At this point in the semester you most likely have received grades on your projects, quizzes, or exams. Although grades aren’t everything, they are the most accurate indicator of your progress in a course. Your grades reflect your level of comprehension for the material you’ve studied, and if they’re low so is your level of understanding. After all, the reason you’re in school is so you can apply the material to your prospective career, so it’s in your best interest to find the material personally and academically fulfilling. Here are 5 tips to help you get better grades and find your college courses personally fulfilling:

1.) Streamline your note taking. As you are writing notes from a lecture, actively listen to the lecture so you can easily pinpoint key topics that you can reference in the future.

2.) Bring a unique perspective toward assignments. Stay away from recycled old arguments and popular ideas and strive to put a new imaginative spin on every assignment you complete. As long as you can back up your claims and ideas with solid evidence, then you’re sure to make excellent grades.

3.) Find someone in every class that you can forge a “study alliance” with. Find someone you find interesting and introduce yourself. As adult students you need to make the first step with traditional age students. Ask about comparing notes/studying and exchange phone numbers. Two heads are better than one so you will double your intellectual resources for your next exam.

4.) Contact College tutors if you need help. There’s nothing worse that suffering silently while you fail a course while college tutors are literally or phone call or a few steps away. College tutors are available for most college subjects.

Tutoring is available in McCutchan Hall: http://www.uww.edu/acadsupport/tutorial/

5.) Choose courses that sincerely interest you. By taking a course that interests you, doing assignments and studying becomes easier as you are actually eager to learn more about the subject. It’s unrealistic to think that every course you take is going to excite you, but you should have a good balance each semester of courses that you have to take, and courses that you actually like.

All in all, hard work, dedication, and an unquenchable thirst for knowledge are some of the overarching characteristics that contribute to good grades. If you have those, but need a little extra help with your study habits and absorbing the material, you should talk to your advisor, professor, and capitalize on the tutoring services on campus. I encourage you to reach out for help if needed.

Transfer Students: If you transferred to UW-W this fall be certain to request your final transcript from your previous institution and have it sent to our UW-W Admissions - Roseman – 2060. Within a year of your enrollment, you can request that Admissions re-evaluate how a course transferred in, or appeal that a course you took at another institution has the same content as a course you are required to take at UW-W. You often need to have a copy of the syllabus of the course from the other institution for proof.

Winterim Course Schedule is now available for viewing: http://www.uww.edu/conteduc/winterim/schclasses.htm

Registration for winterim classes will begin on Monday, November 5th.

Childcare Available – If you will be studying in Andersen Library and would like to bring your children with you, students from the Future Teacher Program will provide learning opportunities for your children. Please sign up by contacting Lynn Smith with the date/s, time/s needed, number of children, and their ages. Allow a 5-day notice to make the arrangements. My email is smithlm11@uww.edu. You must be in the library during this time.
Connect with other UW-W nontraditional students on Facebook: UW-W -Adult Student Connections

UW-W Children’s Center - Move that dirt and transform the outside play area for the kids. Director, Holly McFaul is looking for volunteers to make this happen. Hours: Fri. Oct. 5th 10-4 p.m., Sat. Oct. 6th 9-12 p.m., Fri. Oct. 12th 10-4 p.m., Sat. Oct. 13th 9-12 p.m. If you can help, please contact Holly at mcfaulh@uww.edu.

Upcoming Events:

**Wednesday, October 3rd - Noon – 1p.m. – Graduate School Preparation Workshop – Non Trad Pad - UC-133**

Dr. John Stone, UW-W Dean of Graduate School will explain the admissions process, funding opportunities, and expectations. Please join us, come and go as your schedule allows during the hour and have your questions answered.

**Thursday, October 4th – 4:30p.m. – 8p.m. – Poverty Simulation – Hamilton Room in the UC**

The Social Work Student Organization is hosting this event. During this interactive simulation, participants play the roles of family members struggling to meet basic needs without enough money. This invaluable experience will expose you to the realities of poverty and raise your awareness of government services and service providers. **Participants are needed for this event**, please contact Social Work student Patty Slatter @ SlatterPE18@uww.edu and volunteer to participate. (Hours can be used to fulfill community service hour requirements)

**Saturday, October 6th – 11 - 1:30p.m. - Warhawk Family Fest – UW-W Kachel Fieldhouse**

Enjoy good food, carnival games, face painting, and family photos with Willie Warhawk. Other various activities are planned throughout the day. Purchase ticket deadline is Monday, October 1st. Follow this link for more information and to purchase your tickets: [http://www.uww.edu/fye/family/family-fest](http://www.uww.edu/fye/family/family-fest)

**Sunday, October 7th - 1 – 3p.m. – Let’s Go Bowling – FREE – Warhawk Alley – University Center**

All nontraditional students along with your friends and family are invited to get together for some friendly competition, fun, and conversation at the alleys. Cory Tracy - Adult Student Connections President will be there to greet you. I hope this is right up your alley!!!

**Saturday, October 13th - 2p.m. - ? - Skelly’s Scarecrow Corn Maze – 2713 Hayner Rd. Janesville, WI**

Join other nontraditional students and invite your friends and family for a day in the maze. We will carpool from Whitewater by meeting at the Visitors Center – Starin Road at 2p.m. in Lot 7. Meet other students not carpooling at 3p.m. at Skelly’s. General admission: $6 for two, day-time mazes.

I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying school – the learning, the social interaction, the real human behavior lab a college campus represents, and the cultural activities etc. It is a culture that is so alive and dynamic and in constant flux just like you. Press on - your education is your future. Enjoy the weekend!

Lynn Smith