

Academic Success Skills

Becoming a successful student is a life-long process that requires **self-knowledge**, a combination of **bravery and humility**, and the ability to work **collaboratively**.

Self-Knowledge: Ask yourself these questions. If the answer isn't obvious, begin to experiment and collect data on yourself as a student.

- What are my strengths as a student: subjects, skill sets, habits, types of assessment and evaluation, strategies for learning, etc?
- Where do I have room to grow?
- What do I like about school? What do I struggle with?
- What happens to me when I leave something to the last minute?
- What happens to me when I get overwhelmed or stressed out?
- What do I need to stay healthy in mind and body?
- What kind of environment do I need to get my work done?
- How do I respond to change?
- How do I respond to disappointment?
- How do I respond to success?
- What are my short and long-term academic goals?

Bravery... and humility: Taking risks and knowing when to ask for help can be difficult skills to master, but they go hand in hand.

- Be confident! You belong here.
- Push yourself to break bad habits. Procrastination can be a form of self-sabotage.
- Try something new! A new style of notetaking or studying for exams, a new discipline, a new planner, a new attitude.
- Speak up in class. Participation in conference is not optional.

And the flip side...

- Get to know your resources. You will need them eventually.
- Don't hide from faculty. If things start to slip, ask for help!
- Be flexible. Life rarely goes as planned. Be willing to change your mind and possibly your major.
- Be prepared to scale back if you get overwhelmed. Dropping a class, club, or job is sometimes the right choice.
- There are many unspoken "rules" in academia. When the expectations aren't clear, or if you just want to make sure you understand what your faculty want, ask for clarification.

Collaboration: Reed is a community of scholars; we all learn better when we work with others.

- Build relationships with faculty. This is huge!
- Try to make meaningful contributions to conference. Find a balance between talking too much and not enough, and between asking questions and making statements.
- Talk about your readings and assignments outside of class. (It doesn't matter if the person you're talking to is in the class or not.)
- Join or start a study group. You can meet at the DoJo!
- Honor thy Honor Principle.