

Advice to New College Students

At the end of their first semester of college, 100 freshmen students were asked the question, “What advice regarding study skills would you give to a brand-new first-semester freshman who might be starting SAU next fall?” Their answers follow.

- + Stay organized.
 - This is the first time that I’ve ever really been somewhat organized and it helps a lot with stress. As a freshman you want as little stress as possible.
 - It is crucial to make a schedule so you remain organized. The more you stay organized, the better you will do in class.
- + Read everything carefully.
 - Otherwise, you are sure to miss things.
 - Read ... Read ... Read. Keep up on all your reading. It helps you stay on top of your classes and helps you know what is important for that specific day.
- + Leave yourself plenty of time for studying; don’t wait until the last minute.
- + Study three days before a test.
- + Don’t stress the little things, because then you get caught up with the wrong things.
- + Mark in your book.
 - WRITE IN YOUR BOOKS! I still got money back even though I wrote in my books. Highlighting and making note cards are really good study materials, too.
- + Manage your time well.
 - Be sure you use your time wisely, because there is a lot of “hidden time.”
- + Ask for help.
 - Use the Student Success Center and the library a lot to the point where they know your name.
 - Learn to use the library; it is one of the most important places on campus.
- + Find out the best way for you to study and use that.
 - Be open to new ways of studying.
- + Read over your notes every night or right after class.
 - Make sure you look over your notes and even rewrite them so you understand them better.
- + Don’t fall behind, because it is harder to get yourself back up.
- + Use a planner.
- + Know how to take good notes.
- + Pay attention to specific detail, like due dates.
- + Unplug the internet when you are on your computer. Get off Facebook!
- + Attend class! Pay attention in class!
- + Communicate with your professors.
- + Start off strong right off the bat.
- + Study in a quiet environment that you feel comfortable in.
 - Remove distractions.
 - Find the right place to study. It’s hard to study in a new environment, so it’s important to find your own place to do so.
- + Ask questions.
- + Be open-minded and meet as many people as you can.
- + Go to class with a positive attitude. You will feel very comfortable and your performance in the class will be great.
- + If you are having trouble in a class, get help right away from a tutor.
- + Don’t think that you can just slide through college. Apply yourself and do the work. Don’t think that college is one big party.
- + Study with break in between.
- + You need time for yourself.
- + Even if you did not study in high school, you need to learn how to study, because school won’t get any easier.
- + Read on your own to increase vocabulary.
- + Don’t overload yourself; don’t take too many classes.