

Habits of Mind



Habits of Mind are a common set of skills and practices that successful students possess. Here are some tips to follow for success in college.

F Focus

- Never miss class, you've paid for it (if you miss, inform your instructor prior to being absent) and come to class prepared
- Do library research early, so you have time to sort through what you find
- Turn assignments in on time
- Do not fall behind on class work
- Prepare for exams at least one week in advance
- Buy books early
- Follow syllabus and directions carefully

A dvance

- Realize that education never ends
- Sign up for COUN 1 "Career Planning" or COUN 200 "Success in College and Career"
- Have a realistic sense of your strengths and weaknesses and always find ways to improve
- Use the instructor's corrections and comments to improve your class performance

L ink-up

- Consult with a counselor frequently
- Get classmates' phone numbers or e-mail
- Find a "study buddy" for each class and form study groups
- Make friends with the Cerritos library Staff
- Get to know your professor
- Know the resources at Cerritos College

C omprehend

- If you don't understand, ask questions
- Review class handouts and textbooks more than once
- Re-do assignments to make it better before handing it in
- Contribute to class discussions
- Do research outside of class materials to help comprehend the material
- Re-write, re-type or review class notes to learn material

O rganize

- Take foundation courses in English, Reading and Math first
- Use a semester planner
- Balance difficult and easy classes in each semester
- If you have to be absent on test day, make arrangements to take the test early
- Read the Orientation Guide, Schedule of Classes, College Catalog, and Talon Marks
- Select one or two alternative courses before registering for classes
- Attend workshops and research possible major choices

N ew ideas

- Sample a variety of disciplines in General Education categories
- Check out an introductory course in some majors in which you are interested
- Investigate subjects you never had a chance before to check out
- Attend a meeting for a club or organization
- Explore! Try an introductory course in a subject you know nothing about