Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other.

Lincoln

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

Churchill

Develop success from failure. Discouragement and failure are two of the surest stepping stones to success.

Dale Carnegie

Step back…

Question:

What is the most important problem that you

have to solve over the next few years?

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Problem Statement

Each person will have a slightly different problem statement or emphasis.

For students, the problem statement may very well be something like:

I need/want to get a degree…

… with the desired GPA…

… with the desired knowledge of computer science…

… with the desired knowledge from other fields…

… with desired "other" experiences (academic or otherwise)…

… without going insane.

Take a "problem solving stance" with this problem of succeeding as a student.

What are problems that students run into?

What strategies can I employ for academic success?

Being a student is a job.

It has all of the professional responsibilities that holding a job implies.

Being a full time student is a full time job (typically 40-60 hours/week is expected).

This is not "what you do when you're not having your life".

To succeed as a student requires applying the same sense of professionalism that you would apply to any other job.

Learn to network.

Take advantage of the resources that are allowed.

Learn to focus.

Multitasking interferes with this; so does procrastination.

Learn to present.

Be clear and complete and engaging.

Learn to play the game.

Don't change a winning game, but always change a losing one.

Learn to Network

The #1 problem for many students is lack of interaction with faculty/staff.

    Not only can they help you academically, they also help you professionally.

The #2 problem for many students is lack of interaction with other students in the discipline.

    Build a support environment/community.

    This is why we have the Undergraduate Learning Center in McBryde 106/110.

    Student groups, such as ACM, CS^2, and AWC, are great for this.

Make creative use of communication options.

Keep track of deadlines in-the-large:

   Degree/semester deadlines

Keep track of deadlines in-the-small:

   Assignment due dates

   Class meeting times

   Group meeting times

Good habits trump good memory.

Learn to Focus: Environment

Doing hard work requires a conducive environment.

Set yourself up for success by reducing distractors and gathering resources.

Certain types of work don't need full attention.

Some distractors, such as music, might be OK.

Other types of work need complete focus.

Writing (prose or code), most homework problems, hard debugging all generally require your full attention.

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Some students just don't work hard enough

Failure is sometimes due to laziness… but other issues often arise…

Some students work hard… but don't get good results.

Poor networking skills may make life harder than it needs to be.

Poor organizational skills may retard progress.

Poor working environments may reduce your effectiveness.

The primary goal of communication is to invoke the desired response in your audience.

Email communications

Tests

Homework

Writing

Proof and argument

We will discuss communication more later in the semester.

Being a good student is a (learned) skill, not an (innate) ability.

Get the easy points.

    Never short-change easy assignments or classes

    A little investment (or reallocation) of time could raise your overall score

Learn the testing game.

Learn time management/stress management.

If you need testing time accommodation, don't be shy about getting it.

Change a Losing Game

Be aware of the Felder & Silverman Learning styles scale.

What is your preferred approach to learning?

Be prepared to adjust your approach to various styles of delivery.

Seek adjustment in the course conditions if practical, but in most situations individuals must adapt to the existing reality.

Faculty/staff!!

Writing Center

  Shanks 340 (www.composition.english.vt.edu/wc/)

Counseling Center

  Mental health

  Eating disorders, substance abuse

  Stress

  Career counseling

  Study skills, etc.