Imagine that it is your first day of community college, a nerve-wracking situation to say the least. What if you cannot find your classroom? What if the classes are too hard for you? What if this attempt at furthering your education amounts to nothing more than a failed experiment? It is a sink or swim moment, but you choose to dive in and give it all you have got. It might seem daunting at first, but you can attain all your goals by implementing some good habits that will serve you well throughout your college career. Anyone can be successful in community college by putting into practice organization, intentionality and due diligence.

Firstly, organization is key for every college student. It will provide a sense of control and make you feel empowered. A helpful system of organization is to take the time to go through the syllabi for each class, and write down when each assignment is due for the entire semester. It is also advisable to spend time at the beginning of each week to plan in detail how to complete all of the assignments due for the upcoming seven days. It may sound tedious, but students who skip the organization step, tend to spend the semester confused and frustrated. Granted, it may seem counter-intuitive to spend so much time on organization instead of accomplishing tasks, however, having a clear plan of action will make you more efficient and save time in the long run. Plus, it has the added benefit of reducing stress, leading to a more positive college experience.

Next, learn to be intentional with your thoughts and actions. Whether you are super outgoing, or more introverted, your conduct is always being noted. Success will not come without a purposeful effort. Leonardo da Vinci is quoted as saying, “People of accomplishment rarely sat back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things” (Edberg). It is a simple way of saying that it is within your power to make your own success. Conduct yourself with integrity whether you are interacting with your professors or with other students, and (here’s the clincher) do it on purpose! It is not about being a straight A student, but it is about being the best version of yourself possible. Start your college career with good intentions and strength of character. In doing so, you will certainly find success at the end of what can often seem to be a very long road.

Finally, do not quit on your worst day. Whether you start the semester at a high point or a low point the reality is you will encounter moments when you want to throw in the towel. Most of the time, pushing through those challenging times leads to feeling better within a few days. If your problems are more serious, often conversing with your professor is extremely helpful. The point is, even if you do find yourself in a difficult situation with your studies, there is a path to finishing strong. Pick yourself back up and start again. As James Joyce once said, “Fall if you will, but rise you must” (Patrice).

In closing, remember that success lies within you. You have already started on the path by enrolling in community college. It will not always be an easy process, but it is one well worth the effort. First, by spending some time organizing your assignments, you will receive peace of mind and greater efficiency. Next, be intentional day in and day out. Success rarely comes without some kind of effort and once it is earned, you will experience the sweet taste of triumph. Finally, do not quit on your worst day. Remain steadfast with your educational goals even if you blunder along the way. As George Bernard Shaw once said, “A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing” (Baggini).
Works Cited

Baggini, Julian. "George Bernard Shaw No. 3". The Guardian, 28 October, 2004
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