What Makes a Successful Community College Student?

Upon graduating high school, I did not feel prepared to attend a four-year university for many reasons. I wanted to stay close to my family, ease into the college experience, keep tuition cost low while getting my general education out of the way and being able to decide on my major. At Central Piedmont Community College, I found many opportunities to grow. I became involved with various clubs and organizations such as Positive Community for Women and Phi Theta Kappa. I am also a Work Study student at the Library. My experiences thus far have taught me how to manage my time and become a more efficient student. In the process, I have learned about myself and my passion is to help others. Had community college not been an option, I would have had to put my education on hold and join the workforce to save for higher education. Community college is an important path to a four-year degree and a better future. Attending class, asking questions, doing work, starting early, never giving up, and identifying the resources that are given are the primary steps that I follow in order to be a successful community college student.

Attending class: A successful student plans his or her classes around active learning time. Afternoon and evening classes are available. Early arrival enhances classroom experience.

Asking questions: When you are in class, it can be easy to get lost or confused. A successful student will know how to handle this. Instead of nodding my head and spacing out when I do not understand something, I ask questions to get clarifications. If a student does not understand what is being taught in class, he or she should not be afraid to speak up. I enjoy being involved in class discussions because chances are some of my classmates will have the same questions or thoughts as I do. If other students do not like that you are constantly asking questions, ignore them and reflect on your own goals and education.

Do your work: College involves much work outside of class time with readings and assignments. A successful student will realize that he or she needs to put academics first and complete his or her assignments in a timely manner. After finishing the work that I need to complete, I am able to relax, visit with family and friends over the weekend, and enjoy much needed free time.

Start early: Waiting until the last minute to do assignments will not promote your success in community college. In other words, do not procrastinate. I like to manage my time well by keeping a planner with me at all times. I write down important due dates and a list of what I should complete. Procrastination builds unnecessary stress, and rushed work is not quality work. This is not the path to take in order to meet with success. Due dates in college are very important.

Never giving up and identifying the resources that the school offers: No college student is perfect; mistakes happen. A successful student will know how to handle those mistakes. When you forget that an assignment is due, own up to it. Admitting mistakes, facing the consequences, apologizing and planning to do better in the future are all necessary and important for success. This is known as personal responsibility. Central Piedmont Community College offers extensive and functional resources such as free tutoring at the Academic Learning Center, Career Services, Counseling Services, Financial Aid, Library Services, Academic Advising, Student Life and Activities, etc. I frequently use the Academic Learning Center to guide me with challenging coursework. I have improved in my classes, thanks to the resources I have at my college. I am able to correct my mistakes and do better the next time. Taking the ACA 122 College Transfer Success class is strongly suggested for first-year students because the class is comprehensive in information and lays the groundwork for a student as he or she maneuvers and travels in his or her academic career.

In conclusion, doing these self-identified steps have helped me to become the college person I am today. The ACA class has presented various ideas and thoughts about career paths, life choices, and resources that I have found helpful to grow and become a successful community college student. I recommend the class to others, and I hope sharing these steps will help as they pursue their college experience.