

Michael Hubbard

### “What Makes a Successful Community College Student?”

I believe there are several things that go into being a successful Community College student. The first is being willing to give it your all, your 100% undivided attention. Which is where I fell down in my last go-around. I'm also learning that there is a lot of work and some different strategies involved in getting the most out of your education. According to Joanne Jacobs's article in U.S. News, 7 Steps to Success at Community College “nearly half of new students don't seek help in choosing classes and even fewer talk to a counselor about balancing academics with work and family commitments”. To me these look like some important issues to overlook or not even try to get help with.

I was told that the first thing I needed to do was make an appointment to attend an orientation class, this was good advice, because I realized that I had no idea what I was doing or where to start. This is my second time in Community College and I did not want to make the same mistakes I did the first time. After orientation it was suggested that I meet with an adviser to go over what I was trying to achieve. I told my adviser that I would like to pursue an AAS degree in Nursing and also continue my previous college education with some Spanish classes. She explained what I would need to do and we went over the classes I would have to take to get there. She strongly suggested that I take the Student Success Strategies course. She said it would help me learn how to be a better student, so maybe I wouldn't make the same mistakes I made before.

The CCCC course description says that the Student Success Strategies course is intended to provide students with skills and strategies to promote success in college, career, and life. Topics include the College's physical, academic, and social environment, promotes personal development, and cultivates learning strategies essential for student success. Upon completion, students should be able to manage their learning experiences to meet educational and life goals. Which sounded perfect for me, as I might not be the smartest student, but I have always been willing to learn.

What our instructor (Mr. Willie Williams) told us from the beginning, was that after this course we will be comfortable in college's physical, academic and social environments. We will understand our personal responsibility for our own success. We will be able to apply our newly learned academic strategies and study skills.

What I have learned so far has surprised me, the class has helped me more than I ever thought. Here are some of the things I have learned so far and the class is only half way thru, What type of learning style I have and the best way to get the most out of it, some memory techniques to better retain what I am learning, and some active reading and listening strategies to help me improve my overall comprehension. This information can not only help me now in school, but also set me up for success in my new career. I'm looking forward to the rest of the semester and learning more about how to be a success in college. I have also learned that there are some other really important skills that go into the mix and these are:

- Being good at time management.
- Seeing the big picture and thinking broadly.
- Admitting sometimes that you don't understand.
- Being self-driven.
- Know the campus resources that are available

I must admit that my first impression of all this was somewhat skeptical. It seemed to be somewhat over complicating things. How much is all this really going to help? Well so far, for me, it has been a game changer. I tell people now, if given the option of taking a student success course, take it. If not just for all the new learning skills, it's also made me more aware of my time and how best to use it. The course has helped me stay focused. Which is to learn as much as I can while I'm here, and gain some good solid

habits for my future employment. Getting a good education I have learned is up to me, and only me, it's my responsibility. I'm glad my adviser steered me in the right direction with the Students Success Strategies course.

#### Work Cited

"7 Steps to Success at Community College." U.S. News & World Report, U.S. News & World Report, <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2012/02/03/7-steps-to-success-at-community-college>