

Cindy Truesdale

“What Makes a Successful Community College Student?”

What makes a successful community college student in my opinion is someone with an open mind, a willingness and effort to learn, who is flexible and who is able to effectively communicate. The reason I feel you need an open mind is because there are many who think that community college isn't able to provide a quality education like a four year university. However this is not true. Community colleges have a lot to offer from quality professors, a lot of which teach at both the community college and university and are adjunct professors able to offer real world experience in the classroom, amazing opportunities to get involved in the community and abroad and a quality education at much lower cost than universities. Due to most community colleges being smaller than universities it is also easier to get help when needed from administration with planning your future and teachers with your schoolwork.

Having a willingness and effort to learn has to come from within because once you are in community college there will no longer be anyone making sure that you are stepping up and taking care of business when it comes to your schoolwork and preparation. In high school there was always someone from a parent to teacher or counselor making sure that you are staying on top of things but in college that weight falls squarely on your shoulders. This requires one to take the initiative to do the work, stay on top of the work and get involved to set yourself up for success. It is important to remember that success happens outside of the classroom as well and getting involved in activities at school is a great way to network for the next step.

Being an adult, mom and wife that is returning to school for the first time in twenty years I never know what life is going to throw at me. One can try your best to plan out your day moment by moment however life is truly unpredictable and I must remain flexible at all times so as to not feel too overwhelmed. It is important to communicate with your professors and others when there are curve balls thrown. While this may not always get the outcome you expect it will at least allow them to see the effort that you have put forth and hopefully it will be taken into consideration when a decision needs to be made about whatever the situation. I will say that I feel communication is an area that quite a few of the younger generation has trouble with due to social media and texting but being on their own at college it will force them to learn new ways of doing so therefore helping them to grow.

These are the things that I feel make a successful community college student. I can say that I am genuinely enjoying my community college experience thus far and feel grateful to have and attend Central Piedmont Community College which is providing a stepping stone to obtaining my goals.