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## Online 27

What is it that makes a successful community college student? At Central Piedmont Community College students are blessed to work with knowledgeable teachers, helpful staff, and interesting coursework. All of these are assets that help all of Central Piedmont Community College students to succeed regardless of whether they are earning college credits early or working towards their associate degree. However, in order for a student to succeed at this institution, or any other, the student has to have good time management, a strong work ethic and most importantly has to have the desire to succeed.

First, time management is a crucial skill for a community college student to succeed. I have often heard from people that have transferred from Central Piedmont to a four-year university, that CPCC is a far more prestigious and academically minded school than Appalachian State University, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and University of North Carolina at Greensboro, to name just a few. This means that often times community colleges push you harder than many four-year universities and work harder to help you to succeed. In order for a student to be able to benefit from this unique attribute of community colleges a student must be able to handle the time demands that come with these benefits. If a student cannot manage their time to sleep, do their school work, and find time to rest mentally, they will not succeed as a community college student. In addition, much of the ground work towards a bachelor's degree is completed in an associate degree or in classes at the freshman level. It is therefore, of the utmost importance to spend time honing study skills to make time for all you have to do especially because many students work in addition to being a student.

Second, it is crucial for a student to have a strong work ethic in order to be successful. Completing college classes can be a very challenging feat that requires both patience and diligence. I believe that these are two qualities that a person with a strong work ethic has. If a student works towards their education diligently by working hard on classes, assignments, and in studying, there is no barrier that can keep them from their academic goals. Both intelligence and problem solving are weak when compared to a strong work ethic. A student that is willing to put in the time and effort that it takes to succeed will perform well because they will find the resources they need, they will put in the time it takes, and because they will not stop working until they have reached their goal.

Finally, and most important of all, in order for a community college student to be successful they must have the desire to succeed. A student with the burning desire to do well is a student who will do well regardless of their intelligence, time management, and even work ethic because their true desire to succeed will push them harder than any other quality or attribute.

In the end, although work ethic and time management are important skills to have, if a student has an honest desire to succeed, they will develop the skills they need to help them. There is nothing that can stop a student's passion for their goal. In order for a community college student to succeed, all they have to do is decide that they want to and be willing to work for it. If a student has that, they will develop the skills they need, and find the resources that they need to become a very successful student.