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Online 18

"If you look closely, most overnight successes took a long time" - Steve Jobs. Most people want success and they want it now. Becoming a successful college student does not happen overnight, but it is achievable. A successful college student employs organization, embodies motivation, and accepts failure, but is not defined by it.

Organization can make or break success in any circumstance. Saint Xavier University conducted a study in 2008 that showed students who were organized had better study habits. Better study habits then lead to successful grades. A lack of organization in academic areas leads to missed assignments, being unprepared for assessments, and rushed completion of assignments. To avoid these pitfalls, the successful student is consistently cognitive of their academic responsibilities. Some methods of organization include using a planner and a binder system. They are aware of all assignments by logging them into a planner as soon as the syllabus is given out. Whether using an app, digital planner, hardback planner, or calendar, the student is now aware of all assignments and assessments and can complete them with ample time to prepare. The binder system allows the student to keep all assignments together and in order. Therefore, ensuring they can locate any assignment when needed. The student's organization and respect for responsibility places them in a positive track for success in their classes. Jim Rohn, an American entrepreneur, once said, "Successful people do what unsuccessful people are not willing to do. Don't wish it were easier; wish you were better." The desire to better one's present and future is imperative to success. Without motivation, there is no desire to achieve success. Complacency becomes the seducer of the mind. One motivator for the college student to be more organized, would be to keep their grades up so they would continue receiving financial aid. Another motivator could be mindset that success in college can result in a better future. Finally, taking pride in one's work alone can be a motivation for the student's success. Motivation pushes the student through failures to the door of success.

Accepting failure is the last step to success in a college student's life. Winston Churchill once said, "Success is walking from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm." It is not the failure that defines the student, but understanding the reasons for failure and then moving forward. For example, a student receives a failing grade on an assessment. The student needs to recognize the grade they received, assess why they received that grade, and correct the areas where they went wrong. Failure can be a fuel for motivation. When the failing grade is received, the student can set a goal for the next assessment's grade and work towards it. Acknowledging failure and using it to their advantage is a skill of the successful college student.

Success is defined as "the accomplishment of an aim or purpose." A college student's aim for success could be passing a course, making the dean's list, or graduating with honors. Whatever the aim for success is, organization, motivation, and acceptance of failure are attributes and steps that must be taken in order to succeed.