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What Makes a Successful Community College Student?

According to the Oxford Dictionary, success is the accomplishment of a purpose; being successful is to achieve the desired results. With that reasoning, a successful community college student is someone who obtains what they want from their college experience. As everyone has their reasons to go to college, there is not a right answer to determine what makes you successful. However, there are five traits that I always found in students that I consider successful. They are responsible, self-aware, have a support system, engage with the community, and have good time management.

No matter what your goals are during college, you need to be a responsible person to reach them. Maintaining a good G.P.A, completing your assignments, and passing all your classes are requirements to obtain your degree. Therefore, they become the students' responsibilities to succeed in community college. You cannot be successful if you are not responsible for your obligations.

Self-awareness is the first step to success; you need to know yourself and be aware of what you want to achieve. As a student, you need to know your goals to make a plan and don't waste time following dead ends. When students don't know where they want to be, they feel lost and out-of-place. This can be frustrating, and many people lose their motivation to stay in college because of that. People are most likely to feel they are accomplishing something when it works towards their objectives. Students succeed in college when they know themselves enough to decide what they want to reach. From there, they plan and feel motivated by everything they complete. Also, self-aware students acknowledge their strengths and weaknesses. So, they always find ways to improve their flaws and enhance their skills to be prepared once they finish college.

Besides being aware of yourself, everybody needs a support system to prosper during college. When you start in a community college, everything is new, and you begin a new phase of your life. The transition to a college or university is not easy. You learn new topics, move around new places, and meet new people. It is a big and overwhelming change, especially if you don't have someone to hold you up. The Student Support Center is a place with all the resources to help students during this transition. It is the first place to go as a student to find out where you can get assistance in your areas of need. Successful community college students don't think twice to look for the help they need. If they are struggling with a class, they look for tutoring or set a meeting with their teachers. If they feel lost with their degree, they look for an advisor. They always have someone to count on, and they are not scared to ask. They have constant support to keep themselves accountable and reach their goals.

As important as support, community engagement is necessary to keep you motivated to accomplish your goals. As a student, it is significant that you feel like you belong to the community college because it becomes your second home. As it is a place that you are going to every week, you should enjoy this to strengthen your motivation to keep you going. Community engagement allows people to find their place in college and make the most out of the experience. Successful students interact with people who have the same interest and participate in activities that match their passions. In that way, they find more than one reason to keep studying until they complete their degree.

Finally, nothing that I mentioned before would make sense without good time management. A good college student juggles with his time to complete all the assignments and extracurricular activities. A successful college student manages their time to balance academic life with personal life. Students have deadlines to fulfill, group projects to make, exams to take, and sometimes jobs to go. Besides their academic duties, they need to have some spare time for their families, friends, and other obligations. Poor time management leads to frustration and even quitting college because it is easy to feel overwhelmed when you don't handle your time accordingly. For these reasons, time management is key to college success.

Responsibility, self-awareness, support system, community engagement, and good time management are the five elements to become a successful community college student. To succeed, people need to know their goals, have someone to keep them accountable, be responsible, engage, and handle their time efficiently.