

CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

As a new student, you may not know what a good student is or what a good college student does. Good and bad grades are easily understood and attending class is natural, but your knowledge may begin and end there.

The following list describes what a hard-working student does and what instructors like to see. By learning these characteristics, you may better understand the day-to-day and class-to-class behavior of successful students.

These guidelines, when followed, can help you get down to the business of becoming a serious and successful student. What are the characteristics of a successful student?

1. They attend **class regularly**. Moreover, they are **on time**. If they miss a session, they feel obligated to let the instructor know why and their excuses seem legitimate and reasonable. They make sure they get all assignments they missed and understand specifically what was covered in class.
2. They take **advantage of extra credit** opportunities if they are offered. They demonstrate that they care about their grades and are willing to work to improve them. They often do the optional (and frequently challenging) assignments that many students pass up.
3. Successful students **speak in class**, even if their attempts are a bit clumsy and difficult. They ask the questions the instructor knows many in the class are bound to have, provided they are listening.
4. They **see the instructor before and after class** about grades, comments made on their papers and upcoming tests. Sometimes they just want to ask a question or make a comment relative to the class discussion.
5. Successful students **turn in assignments** that look neat and sharp. They take time to produce a final product that looks good and shows pride in their work and **turn them in on time**.
6. They are **attentive in class**. They don't chat, read, text, or stare out the window. In other words, they are polite and graceful, even if they get a little bored.
7. Almost all **work and assignments are turn in**, even if every one of them is not brilliant. Successful students seem driven to complete all work.
8. The most successful students may well end up at the instructor's office door at least once during the semester. They will go out of their way to find the instructor and engage him/her in meaningful conversation.