

Dual Enrollment Student Success Tips

These tips will provide useful information to aid in your success as a dual enrollment student.

- **Maintain good class attendance.** Missing even one class session can have a negative impact on your grade in a course. Many instructors include class participation points as a part of each class session, so even if you can make-up the material that was covered, you may miss out on these points.
And if a quiz or test was administered that day, you will need to work with the instructor to determine a plan to make it up. Once you miss more than one class, things start to snowball and you may find yourself so far behind in the course that it may not be possible to catch up.
It is also important to arrive on time for class and not leave early- so you can be successful and also to eliminate interruptions to the classroom learning environment.
- **Get help early.** If you begin to struggle in a course, do not wait until later to get help. You can arrange to meet with your instructor to get help with specific concepts you may not understand. You can also take advantage of tutoring services at PTC, as well as NetTutor, which is available online in your D2L Brightspace account.
Get with other students to form a study group or at least find a study buddy. You can even seek assistance from a fellow student who appears to have a good understanding of the material.
Study advice may be available from your high school counselor or from a PTC counselor (located in the Student Success Center or available via Campus Connect)
- **Have your own textbook by the first day of class.** Most college courses include a good deal of reading. Some college tests or exams may include material from the assigned reading that was not covered in class lecture, which makes your textbook a valuable tool for success in your class. Sharing textbooks between students is not a good option either. **Note:** Some instructors may tell you on the first day of class about an electronic version of a textbook or other means of getting the book that might be less expensive, so when you purchase a book from the college bookstore, do not remove any plastic wrap or other packaging from the book until you attend your first class session. Once it is opened, the book is considered a used book and you cannot return it for a full refund.
- **Learn how to take good notes.** It is important to capture class lectures and discussion by writing down important information. You do not need to take down every word, but create a system for jotting down concepts and information in a shortened way. Take notes in a systematic format, such as using an outline or other orderly method. If you miss something, leave a gap in your notes and get with the instructor or fellow student after class to fill in the gap. Leave extra room in your notes and margin for adding extra notes from your textbook or study group.

- **Don't let tests and exams scare you.** A test is simply the opportunity to show the knowledge you have gained in the course. It is not designed to make you fail but to ensure that you correctly understand what has been taught.
Approach each test by telling yourself that you will succeed and that you will get a good grade. Some of our biggest problems in life come simply from what we tell ourselves. If you begin to feel anxious during a test, take a deep breath and remind yourself that you studied the material.
Take the test one question at a time and don't worry about the questions coming up next. If you don't know something, mark it and come back to it. Do the ones you know first, because that will give you a boost of confidence. Sometimes other questions will even give you answers or hints for other test questions!
And don't worry if you're the last one finishing the test- there are no bonus points for finishing quickly. If it is a timed test try to pace yourself by identifying the test question you should be working on at the halfway point of the test period. If the halfway point comes and you have not reached that question yet, you know to speed up a bit.
Test-taking doesn't have to be a negative experience if you study and believe in yourself.
- **Know how many classes you can realistically handle each semester.** Don't overload yourself. It is better to do well in a few courses than to barely get by in several. Talk with your high school counselor to determine the right number of PTC courses for you.
- **Take classes that you know you can use.** Although your PTC courses will almost always transfer, they may not transfer as a course that you can use for your selected major. It is your responsibility to check with the university or college of your choice to make sure that you take courses that can be applied to your major.
- **Withdrawal is the last option.** Do not withdraw from a PTC course unless you have first discussed it with your high school counselor. Withdrawing can have a negative impact on your high school graduation eligibility, etc.

