

Seeking success in university

Do you ever wonder why most alumni or adults says, “University was the best years of my life”?

Regardless of what age you start university, when you finish, you should look back and share that similar feeling. University is about learning to explore, discovering who you are and who you want to be, and creating the foundation for a lifetime of success. Attending university isn’t a silver bullet to success, not unless you take control.

Helpful Campus Resources Adult Undergraduates Need to Know About:

Attending class at a physical campus opens up a lot of opportunities to seek help. No matter what you might need, there’s someone on campus ready and able to help. Campus resources make it easier to get that degree. Check out the list of campus resources which might be helpful for you in seeking and obtaining success in university.

Writing center:

No matter what you’ve decided to major in, you’ll be required to write. For those who aren’t strong writers, the writing center is there to help. Most college students will finish their degree with a thesis or research project that involves a lot of writing. If you struggle with motivation or knowing how to complete such a lengthy project, the advisors at the writing center can help you to break it down into smaller steps. You might even be able to set up an appointment with them to meet once a week or once every two weeks to check on your progress.

Tutoring:

During your college career, you’ll find that some classes are a breeze while others might not be so easy. Whether it’s the material or how the material is presented, some classes may be more difficult than others. Instead of struggling over a difficult class, consider seeking the help of a tutor.

Find out if your campus offers tutoring in the subject, or look for tutoring classes that help with test-taking or reading complicated material in general. Some tutoring will be offered as one-on-one while others might be done in group sessions. Before

hiring a tutor and paying out-of-pocket, make sure you know what resources are available to you for free.

Advisors:

Your college advisors play a major role in the decisions that you make in college. Advisors are trained to help you achieve your goals and graduate from college. There's no reason that you should go through college alone. Academic advisors aren't your only advisor in college.

Many students also find that their professors are fantastic advisors when figuring out the ins and outs of college.

Library:

The library isn't just for checking out books on a college campus. Libraries have begun to modernize offering a lot of online resources for research. Libraries offer physical spaces for students to study individually or in groups and classes in how to complete research.

Information technology and Department:

Some colleges offer technical assistance for students IT woes. If your computer stops working, crashes, or you need training, don't hesitate to reach out to the IT department of your school and ask if they provide help to students.

Campus resources are designed to make college easier, but that's only the case if you take advantage of them. Remember, every student needs help at some point. Taking advantage of these resources doesn't mean that you're failing at college, it means that you know how to take advantage of the resources. Use all of the resources you need and go get that degree!

Form an academic support group:

The term academic support may refer to a wide variety of instructional methods, educational services, or school resources provided to students in the effort to help them accelerate their learning progress, catch up with their peers, meet learning standards, or generally succeed in school. In practice, academic support encompasses a broad array of educational strategies, including tutoring sessions, summer learning experiences, after school programs and teacher advisors, as well as alternative ways of grouping, counseling, and instructing students. Academic support may be provided to individual students, specific student populations (such

as non- English speakers or disabled students), or all students in a school. While the term academic support typically refers to the services provided to underperforming students, it may be used in reference to “enrichment” programs and more advanced learning opportunities provided to higher-achieving students.

While the design and purpose of academic-support programs may vary widely from school to school, the following are some representative examples of common forms of academic support:

Classroom-based strategies:

Teachers continually monitor student performance and learning needs, and then adjust what they teach or how they teach to improve student learning.

School-based strategies:

Schools create academic-support opportunities during the school day, such as learning labs, to increase the instructional time that academically struggling students receive, while also varying the way that instruction is delivered.

After-hours strategies:

Schools may provide after-school or before-school programs, usually within the school building, that provide students with tutoring or mentoring, or that help students prepare for class or acquire study skills.

Vacation-break strategies:

Strategies such as summer school or “summer bridge programs” may be created to help students catch up or prepare for the next grade (if there are concerns they might struggle academically or drop out of high school). Similar support programs and learning opportunities may be provided during vacation breaks in the fall, winter, and spring.

Technology-assisted strategies:

Schools may use digital and online learning applications which may help students to grasp difficult concepts, or teachers may use course-management programs that allow them to archive course materials and communicate with students online.

In addition to the various support settings and delivery methods described above, academic support may also have a specific educational focus or goal. A few representative examples:

Relationship-based support:

In schools, strategies such as teaming or advisories may be used to build stronger and more understanding relationships between teachers and students.

Skill-based support:

In some cases, schools may decide to create a literacy program, for example, that provides all students with more concentrated instruction, practice, and guidance in reading, writing, and communicating.

Needs-based support:

Many or most forms of academic support are based on identified learning needs, and schools will provide supplemental or intensive instruction, practice, and guidance to students who are struggling academically or who have specialized needs—these can include students with learning disabilities, physical disabilities etc.

Stay informed:

It's important for you to stay informed about the latest updates or information about your subject, university and where you can find help if you need to be. Regular interaction with a number of sources can keep you up-to date. Join and participate in professional net-working groups. These groups offer the opportunity to exchange information and to establish relationships with others in your field who share the same challenges

Get involved:

Getting involved is very important, if you are in journalism, write for the school paper. If you're in fine arts, get your work in student-run shows. If you're in business, enter case competitions. Participating in degree-related extracurricular is a great way to network with future colleagues and learn new things.