Study Skills for College Students

Study at the Library-The college library is one of the most loathed places to go on campus, especially by the end of the semester. Resist this urge to hate the library, because it can actually give you more time to have fun. Instead of trying to study in a dorm or student housing where there are constant distractions, college students should study in the library where they are most efficient. This will allow students to study more in less time, leaving more time to do the fun stuff. Don't become one of those college students who never steps foot inside the college library.

Pick an Interesting Major-The more you hate your major, the harder it will be for you to study. If you are undeclared, spend a lot of time researching a major and ask students currently in that major how they like it, what the workload is like, what kind of papers, projects and presentations they have to do before your get into a major you do not like. If you already have a major, and you absolutely hate it, meet with your advisor and ask what other options you have. Changing your major earlier is always better then later, so to avoid future problems such as dropping out, address the issue now.

Surround yourself with Smart People-If you make friends and surround yourself with smart people, you will be more motivated to learn, and you will learn how to study and learn more efficiently.

Have the materials the professor requires-Most professors require a specific [textbook for class](). Students should do their best to have the correct textbook or material so time is not wasted studying the wrong topics.

Use the resources the professor gives you-Most professors give out handouts and articles for a reason. Students should keep everything their professor gives them just in case if it is needed for a test. The college [course syllabus]() is an important resource **that should be kept all semester as a guide.**

Get Back Tests-"Back Tests" are copies of tests that professors have given to students in the past such as last semester or years ago. These back tests give college students an idea of how the test is going to be formatted and how the questions will be answers. Many professors know about this practice of studying back tests, so they have implemented practices such as changing tests completely every semester, and collecting all tests after a test is taken. Note: do not just study the answers on the back tests because if they are changed you will fail. The best practice is to write out all of the questions, and find all the answers to the questions on your own, as if you were taking an open book test. Then study the questions and answers and try to think of similar questions and variations the professor may ask. More tips likes these can be found in the [study tips]() section.

Meet with the Professor-College students who are unsure of what could be on the next test should talk to the [professor]() before class, after class, or make an appointment. This will allow the student to speak with the professor face to face, and ask direct questions. Some professors will give you clues and ideas of what to study and how to study if you just ask. Speaking with the professor is always a bonus for the student because it shows the student is actually concerned about the class, and the professor gets to know you, which some professors consider when it comes time for grades.