

College is Work

- College is an important business to you.
- Your most valuable asset is time. Learn to use it effectively. Do time audits.
- You need about 50 hours of class plus study time each week to get excellent grades.
- Best used during the week. Save Friday and Saturday for play (play is good).

Courses to Take

- Choose college courses you like.
- Choose good professors over bad.
- Be careful of statistics, calculus and chemistry. SCGSF students struggle with these subjects.
- Spread out your classes. Mix hard and easy classes; no more than 2 labs/sem.

Start Early

- Get off to a good start—the first week of school is critical.
- Find out where the classroom is (and the bathrooms).
- Get your textbooks early and read the first 50 pages before the first class.
- Sit in one of the 1st 3 rows. It reduces a big class to a small class.

You're a FULL-TIME Student; Be Professional

- Study the same day you go to class. Half of everything you hear in class is forgotten in 8 hours; another half in the next 8, etc.
- Use the breaks between classes in the library to review your class notes. It will increase your retention. Stay on campus most of the day. Do not waste time.
- Go to class early; don't leave early.
- Be prepared: do your homework, read ahead.
- Concentrate on the lectures and relate it to the rest of the course.
- Do not turn in homework late, unedited, or without using spell check.

Use Your Brain Effectively & Get Help

- Memorize before you go to bed. The brain works at night.
- Memorization is a learnable skill.
- Learn how to memorize. Say it, write it, read it out loud and see it in your mind's eye.
- Get to know your professors. Go to their office hours, ask questions after class.
- Get tutors the first week of school. They are free and they are helpful.
- Get in a study group with 2-4 other students.
- When you study, *only* study. No iPods, music, phone, texting, gossip,...

Grades are Important

- Grades are important in competing for your first jobs; for graduate schools; for professional schools.

Test Taking

- Unpleasant, but important.
- Become a good test taker.
- Pretest yourself on standard exams.
- Get old tests from your professor's homepage or the reserve list at the library.
- Most tests in real life are different.

The First Year Counts

- SCGSF students do not do as well in their freshman year.
- Freshman grades count.
- If you bomb your freshman year, it is difficult to get a good overall grade point after 4 years.