

Top Ten Ways to Set Yourself Up For a Successful Spring Semester

1. **Buy/rent/borrow your textbooks.** Have them for the first day. This might mean emailing the professor ahead of time and asking, “Which books are we *really* going to use?” Check the library and borrow them before buying them if cost is an issue.
2. **If you don’t have a calendar- get a calendar.** There are some amazing ones for free online that you can download and print.
3. **Make a schedule;** having a routine is a motivator. If you stick to the same routine throughout the semester you will be more productive.
4. **Be realistic when setting up a routine.** You’re not going to go to class for 4 hours and then study for 8 on a Friday.
5. **Build a relationship with your professors.** If you know something may be going on for you this semester (family issues, or interviews for jobs, graduate school, or internships), let them know ahead of time so there will be less issues later.
6. **Get ahead.** If you get a week ahead on your reading, you can be ahead for the whole semester. This gives you that wiggle room that we all need at some point in the semester.
7. **Pick front row seats in classes.** It not only makes you look good to the professor, it’s also a great way to keep you motivated to show up and keeps you from pulling out your phone or surfing social media. Plus, nobody will take your seat next week.
8. **Don’t overload yourself.** Be mindful of how many credits you’re taking, what level the courses are, and how much work each class will require. Consider these things before signing up for extra shifts at work or every club at the activity fair.
9. **Check out at least one support service** you haven’t used before. Try career services, CAPS (they have group sessions), tutoring, advisors, multicultural centers, or ask your GA to suggest something else.
10. **Read your syllabi.** Shocking! Make notes of important dates (exams, papers, presentations); look at how much each assignment is weighted in the class and the attendance policy. Pay attention to how the professor describes assignments and the course, this can tell you a lot about how the semester will be run.

