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Advice for Future WOU Students

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Advice for Future WOU Students

Note Taking:

Taking notes is one of the key aspects to succeeding in college, but many people don't necessarily know why.

The key reasons why studying is important are:

- Taking notes allows you to remember in class materials more easily.
- Some professors allow the use of notes on tests.
- Rereading and rewriting notes taken in class is a great way to study.
- If you miss class, you can get notes from another student.
- Notes allow you to study with other more easily.

Going to Class:

As a freshman, I would want to be told how important it is to go to class. In college, you often have the option to skip class, and not have it directly affect your grade. But in college, a lot of things are said by the professor that can only be learned by attending their classes. It is possible to get assignments, and copy someone's notes, but actually being in the class is much more beneficial. Professors often will tell stories that can help make connections, or have personal experiences with the material you are covering. They may also stray from their presentations, giving information that would not be available on their online power points.

Doing your Homework:

As a freshman at Western Oregon University, I have learned that it is very important to do your homework. The homework assigned in college is not like homework in high school. Homework almost always has something to do with the lesson the next class, or may even be a lesson itself, and not covered next class. In both situations, you can fall very far behind in class if you do not do your homework.

Besides not getting the knowledge intended from doing homework, it can severely affect your grade. By deciding not to do the assignment, you don't get the points for completing it. In some classes, this may be the main source of points, and by not doing the assigned work, you risk failing the class. As more homework remains unfinished, the further behind you become in your education. This is extremely impactful on your grade because, even if you decide you want to start doing your work, you are so far behind that you no longer know how to do the assignment.

Use your planner! Take it to every class and write assignments in it as soon as your teacher announces them! Don't rely on your memory because you will forget!

How to prevent procrastination:

1. Eliminate all distractions
 - Phone, computer
2. Figure out what is holding you back from completing the task
3. Familiar study surroundings
 - Room, library, music/no music
4. Break tasks down
 - Break larger tasks into smaller parts to make it less overwhelming
5. Make a to-do list
 - Allows you to see priorities and what you have to get done
6. Prioritize
 - More important tasks first
7. Make a schedule
 - Set time limits for when you need to be done with a certain task and when to move onto the next one. Also, set times for 15 - 30 minute breaks.