

Important Keys for Academic Success

- Attend class.** Go to class! It cannot be emphasized enough that there is a direct correlation between classroom attendance and academic success. Tests are most often based on the material covered in class. Attend your classes – not just regularly, but every time your classes meet. You should inform your professor if illness requires you to miss a class. If you are going to be away from campus for a performance, alert your instructors ahead of time. Get your assignments in advance, if possible, and determine when the work is due. Your class attendance will be a criteria used by your professor when assigning final grades.
- Know your syllabus.** If you are familiar with your syllabus, you'll know exactly when every assignment is due and when every test takes place, well ahead of time. Good time management is key to juggling your classes and coming out on top.
- Go to class prepared.** You should have all reading and writing assignments completed on time. If you go to class unprepared, it is often difficult to understand the material presented in class. Professors don't assign work arbitrarily – it is supposed to help you learn. Also, your instructor may tag you as a student with a poor attitude, which may influence your grade.
- Know your instructor.** Introduce yourself to your instructor; if you have any questions, meet with him or her. Your professor is interested in your performance in the classroom and will generally be happy to discuss material related to your course.
- Make a good impression.** Go to class on time. Entering class late causes a disruption and indicates that you are uninterested in class and disrespectful of the professor. Do not read, listen to music, play with your cell phone, etc., in class. Be respectful: remember “sir,” “ma'am,” “thank you,” and “please.”
- Don't let little problems get big.** If something isn't going well, try to fix it before it gets too big to control. Remember, you don't have to fix everything by yourself. If the problem is too big for you, find someone to give you a hand.
- Manage your time.** Plan out what must be accomplished in the semester. On a calendar, list the days when quizzes, essays, and special projects are due. Also, list your performance days, etc., when

you will not be able to follow your usual study routine. Find the conflicts. Is there a week when multiple tests and projects are due? Plan ahead. Don't leave the studying until the last minute. Complete special projects in advance, during the times when you have fewer commitments. By having a schedule, you can easily see what time is available for studying and what assignments must be completed in the time available.

Plan study time.

Commit to a regular study time every day. Let this time become part of your daily routine. Join helpful study groups. If you participate in group study sessions, don't let them turn into "bull sessions."

Get help if you need it.

Boise State provides free tutoring and academic advising, as well as resources for finding personal tutors that you can hire. You can also get free scheduling and long-term planning advice. Study groups often improve academic performance as well. Usually, professors are happy to help their students overcome problems with the material. You may also find that there are people in the band who can help you in some areas.