

Collegiate Study Skills

Those of you coming to college for the first time will likely find that the skills necessary for academic success are different from those learned in secondary education (high school). Most importantly, you will be asked to take more responsibility for your learning and success, as well as scheduling and time management. This page lists some ideas and resources that may help.

Practice Effective Study Techniques (from the [GBC Student Handbook, 2013-2014, page 33](http://www.gbcnv.edu/student_life/student_handbook.pdf) (http://www.gbcnv.edu/student_life/student_handbook.pdf))

1. Have an appropriate study environment
2. Study difficult subjects first.
3. Split large tasks into more manageable tasks (Use distributed learning and practice, study in shorter time blocks with short breaks between)
4. Read for comprehension, rather than just to get to the end of the chapter.
5. Be prepared to ask questions as they come up during study, rather than waiting to the last minute to complete your projects.
6. Read the syllabus as soon as you get it and note all due dates on your calendar.
7. Be a model student!

The Student Handbook also has advice on time management, course scheduling, GBC policies, and a number of other issues that you might find useful (see pages 32-39).

Find How You Best Like to Study

Studying is an intensely personal activity, and not everyone studies the same way—nor necessarily the same way for every subject. Identifying the environment in which you study best—time, place, background, tools—should be one of your major learning projects in college.

There are, however, some commonalities in *bad* study techniques. Students at Washington

"College Study Tips" from the Washington State University Academic Excellence in Undergraduate Education Residence Life Committee. (<http://youtu.be/Vg9Z1s2VoT8>)



(<http://youtu.be/Vg9Z1s2VoT8>)

State University put together this video discussing some of the issues involved in studying at the collegiate level.

Reading Strategies: SQ3R

Reading is not a simple skill. Information does not just pass from the page into the student. It requires the effort to place the information into a larger context, which means the reader must actively engage with the material being read.

SQ3R stands for "Survey, Question, Read, Recite, and Review." This is one approach to active reading that is quite popular for college students who are confronting complex texts for the first time.

[Dr. John Body of the Office of Learning Strategies at Mount Holyoke College explains the SQ3R Method.](http://youtu.be/8Ui2mpPDP7E) (<http://youtu.be/8Ui2mpPDP7E>)



(<http://youtu.be/8Ui2mpPDP7E>)

Cornell Note-Taking System

Many students arrive in college with poor note-taking skills. While digital technology provides an easy means of looking up and verifying factual information, note-taking is still a valuable skill in dynamic environments where relationships between facts must be captured—such as in a classroom discussion or business meeting.

The **Cornell Note-Taking System** was developed by Dr. Walter Pauk, director of Cornell University's Reading and Study Center and author of *Howto Study in College*. Pauk's system has been widely used in colleges since the 1960s because it provides an emphasis on synthesis, analysis, and application over simple recall of information (see Keil Jacobs, "[A Comparison of Two Note Taking Methods in a Secondary English Classroom](http://soar.wichita.edu/dspace/bitstream/handle/10057/1388/grasp-2008-56.pdf?sequence=1)" (<http://soar.wichita.edu/dspace/bitstream/handle/10057/1388/grasp-2008-56.pdf?sequence=1>)" in *Proceedings: 4th Annual Symposium: Graduate Research and Scholarly Projects* [79], Wichita State University, April 25, 2008).

[S. Clowes demonstrates the Cornell Note Taking System](http://youtu.be/JPSmXRllyS)

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Campus Resources

Even though the ultimate responsibility for learning is yours, GBC offers a number of resources to help you complete your studies here. If you are feeling lost or overwhelmed, but all means consult one of these resources. Among the most commonly used are:

[Academic Success Center:](http://www.gbcnv.edu/asc/) [\(http://www.gbcnv.edu/asc/\)](http://www.gbcnv.edu/asc/) Tutoring is available for a wide range of subjects as well as general skills such as writing and research.

[Student Support Services:](http://www.gbcnv.edu/retention/) [\(http://www.gbcnv.edu/retention/\)](http://www.gbcnv.edu/retention/) Support for balancing college with everyday life, and Peer Mentoring is available.

[GBC Computer Help Desk:](http://www.gbcnv.edu/computing/helpdesk.html) [\(http://www.gbcnv.edu/computing/helpdesk.html\)](http://www.gbcnv.edu/computing/helpdesk.html) Problems with WebCampus or other software? This should be your first stop for support.

[Services for Students with Disabilities:](http://www.gbcnv.edu/disabilities/) [\(http://www.gbcnv.edu/disabilities/\)](http://www.gbcnv.edu/disabilities/) They can assist in making any necessary arrangements required by documented disabilities.

[Dr. Gavorsky:](mailto:scott.gavorsky@gbcnv.edu) [\(mailto:scott.gavorsky@gbcnv.edu\)](mailto:scott.gavorsky@gbcnv.edu) If you are unsure about items for this course, or any other issue, feel free to contact me.