



# Dr. Irvin's College Success Guide

## **School Work Comes First**

- never miss class; never attend unprepared
- do 2-3 hours of homework for every hour in class

## **Organization and Time Management are KEY**

- keep a centralized calendar; write things down, plan
- you can't keep track of everything in your head

## **It Isn't How Hard You Work, But How Smart You Work**

- learn to study efficiently
- take extra pains to understand assignments
- your reading and writing process IS your learning process

## **Attitude is Aptitude**

- keep an open and discerning mind, a novice's "beginner mind"
- find a personal interest in assignments; internal motivation is the most powerful kind

## **Set Goals**

- goals provide direction and purpose, so set goals for yourself
- these goals could be big (like career goals) or small (do well this semester)

## **Mountains Are Climbed One Step at a Time, Not in Leaps**

- start on assignments early; work on them steadily over time

## **Work Through Problems, Setbacks, and Confusion**

- everyone encounters problems and makes mistakes
- encountering problems is not a sign of your insufficiency or stupidity; it's what you do when faced with them that counts
- don't hesitate to ask questions and seek help

## **Extra-Curricular is Curricular**

- school work comes first, yes, but what you learn from involvement in extra-curricular activities may affect you more deeply and stay with you longer in your life than any class—get involved.

## **Your Secret Weapon: Go Visit Your Professor**

- every professor has office hours for visiting students; take advantage of this access