

The Basics of 'Batting' an 'A'

The challenge of succeeding in class is similar to that of hitting a baseball; practice the material as often as possible, seek the extra coaching you need at every opportunity and prepare so well that nothing surprises you when you step up to the plate.

CLASS

- Do you go to class?/How often?
- When do you arrive at class?
 - Early/Late
- Where do you sit in class?
 - Front/Back, Left/Right?
- What do you do when you have a question?
 - How comfortable are you raising your hand?
 - How comfortable are you approaching the instructor immediately after class with a question?
 - How comfortable are you with using the instructor's office hours?
- Do you go to the extra help sessions?

NOTES

- How do you take notes?
 - Are you busy trying to write down everything the instructor is saying or writing on the board?
 - Do you listen first to the point they're making and then write down key/important information?
- What do you do with your notes after class?
 - Do you re-read them at home or in your room?
 - Do you re-write them-clarifying points, improving handwriting, organizing concepts/thoughts?

READINGS

- How do you read text/material?
 - Do you read the material in advance of class?
 - Do you read with a highlighter in your hand - reading a few words, think its going to be important, then highlight everything?
 - Do you read first (no highlighter), understand, then go back and highlight important areas (maybe after class) -
 - Do you go back over the text material after class cross-referencing with your notes?

STUDYING

- Where do you study?
 - In your room/library/study lounge/friends room?
 - Who do you study with?
 - What else is going on when studying-TV/stereo/friends conversation/playing computer games?
- When do you study?
 - Same time every day
 - Early AM or Late PM
 - Between classes at library, student union, etc.

TESTS/EXAMS

- When do you start studying for an exam?
 - Night before/3-days, depends
- How do you study?
 - Re-read every chapter (in order)
 - Review all material and identify difficult topics/chapters etc.
 - Practice tests/questions