

How To Succeed in Math/Science/Engineering Courses at JHU

1. Understand How College Differs from High School • Steven Zucker

A common misconception of students is that college will be like high school, just harder. The basic differences are that in college, most of the learning takes place outside the classroom, and that the student is responsible for learning the material. Through this, the student can learn better and more rapidly than in high school.

2. Prepare for Lectures • Allen Shearn

Every class has a syllabus that lists what material is to be covered on a given day. To succeed, a student should come to class prepared. For example, the relevant material in the textbook should be read prior to each class. After class, a student should review his/her notes. Our survey of students in General Biology last year suggests that these behaviors are the best predictors of student success.

3. Build on Concepts • David Draper

Every concept presented in a course builds on previous ones, and every math or science course you take will assume you are thoroughly familiar with the ideas in your previous courses. Thus, it is wise to keep up with coursework from the start; if you fall behind, it becomes more and more difficult to catch up.

4. Devote Yourself to Learning and Integrity • Jason Howald

Passionate students feel excitement, curiosity, and even wonder in learning. They spontaneously reorganize and integrate material. Their genuine fascination and delight in learning provokes discussions and inspires peers. Your success hinges on awakening this attitude within yourself. Treasure your personal integrity throughout your academic experience.

5. Learn How to Deal with Homework & Exams • Morris Swartz

Good homework habits are crucial to success in math and science courses. Thinking skills cannot be developed without regular thinking exercises. Postponing the this process until the night before an exam is a recipe for disaster. Several exam-taking strategies can significantly improve your scores.

6. Get Help • Edward Scheinerman

A wide variety of resources are available to help you succeed in your courses. These resources include: your professor, teaching assistants, tutors, advising offices (Arts & Sciences and Engineering), and the Counseling Center. We are here to help you achieve.