

Top 10 Tips for Academic Success for First-Year Students

1. Go to class every day and be on time.
2. Read through all your syllabi and mark down all deadlines and test dates on your calendar/organizer.
3. Do your reading. The number one reason students do poorly on exams is that they have not done the assigned reading.
4. Study on a regular basis. Review your notes after class lectures regularly. Make sure to note areas about which you have questions. ASK your instructor to clarify.
5. Visit your instructor during office hours and ask questions, or simply spend a few minutes talking about the subject matter. This will help your professor remember you when you come back to ask for a recommendation letter.
6. Make sure you eat well, sleep, and get exercise. Your brain cannot function well without these things.
7. Make sure that when you write, whether it is an email to your professor, an answer on a test, or a research paper, you use proper grammar, correct spelling, and clear and concise language. You are more likely to succeed if you take the time to always do your best in your written communication.
8. Take advantage of the support structure of the UGA—whether it be for tutoring, writing workshops, health services, or other types of support—use them. The University has many ways to lend you support, including extracurricular activities to help you build friendships and positive experiences here.
9. Take advantage of all the free cultural and intellectual activity on campus from lectures on things you might not have heard of to plays, concerts, art shows, and sporting events. This is the one time in your life you will have a bit of free time to really take advantage of these types of diverse activities—and often at no cost. And join a club or organization to build upon your hobbies—from recreational activities to philanthropic endeavors, UGA has everything.
10. Be curious, open your eyes to new ideas, open your heart to new ways to care, move your feet to a different beat, raise your hand with new questions, enjoy your time at UGA, and begin a path to academic success that will lead you to on a lifetime of learning!