What Does “S-T-U-D-Y” Mean in College?

In college, the word “study” includes many activities essential to good grades. Unfortunately, many students do not know what to do beyond rereading and cramming when studying for college level classes.

Below is a list of important activities for college level study. Some must be done on a regular basis while others are done once or twice per semester. It is important to understand that there are many tasks that must be accomplished to do the job of learning properly in college.

1. Set up a study schedule that includes a minimum of 2 hours of studying for every hour that you are in the classroom.
2. Rewrite lecture notes as soon as after class as possible.
3. Read text assignments and build notes beginning from the 1st lecture or textbook.
4. Quiz yourself over and over from notes on a regular basis a soon as possible.
5. Self-test on a regular basis. Discover what you know and what you don’t know before you take a test when you can still do something about it. Do not wait until you get a test back to find out what you have and have not learned. Discover how many times you have to self-test in order to recall all of the details from memory by looking only at the main ideas.
6. Form study groups. Compare notes, form potential test questions and answers, quiz each other.
7. Do homework.
8. Work on assignment project. (Individual and group).
10. Research for and write papers and essays. Start early and do a little bit each day.
11. Work with the Academic advising and Resource center to develop good time management skills.
12. See professors during their office hours.

The Pyramid of Learning Efficient Learning

- We are 5% efficient when just listening
- We are 10% efficient when reading and re-reading
- We are 20% efficient when just hearing or seeing
- We are 30% efficient watching demonstrations
- We are 50% efficient when in study groups
- We are 90% efficient by teaching others

Adapted with permission of Dennis Congo, Certified Supplemental Instruction Trainer, University Central Florida