

# How to be an “A” Student

## 1. Clarify shared expectations in the course

Ask, “What is expected of me?” and “What do I expect of myself?” (Tool: *Analyzing a Course Syllabus Activity*)

## 2. Create a plan of action

Determine how you will meet the course expectations. (Tool: *Analyzing a Course Syllabus Activity*)

## 3. Make your commitment to success in writing

Share it with another person. (Tool: *Learning Contract*)

## 4. Prepare for class by reading for learning

Don’t just read; read and think and ask questions. (Tool: *Reading Log* or notes with inquiry questions)

## 5. Think critically in class

Ask or write down inquiry questions, connecting what you are learning to what you already know. Follow up on any questions that remain once class is over. Find the answers to your questions.

## 6. Teach someone else

Pass along your learning to someone else as a way to test your understanding.

## 7. Demonstrate your learning and increased understanding before the next class meeting

Use it or lose it. Find ways to use what you have learned.

## 8. Extend your knowledge

Create a new problem to solve or try applying your learning in a new context.

## 9. Anticipate future challenges so there are no surprises

## 10. Execute readiness preparation for every performance task

For a test, take a practice test; for an essay, write a draft. Find a way to practice or rehearse.

## 11. Let go of your fear and stress

Finish your preparation for a performance such as a test not less than 24 hours before the performance. Studies have proven that relaxing and getting plenty of rest before performing yields better results than cramming or practicing up until the last minute.

## 12. Engage in assessment and self-assessment after every performance

Regular assessment of your performance by both yourself and others will help you strengthen and improve your performance.