

The Ten Commandments for How to Excel in Higher Education

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- 1. Get what you pay for**
Why do people go to college? To get through! Get your money's worth from education. Education is that strange commodity where people do not want to get their money's worth. Students often try to learn the minimum just to get by, whereas they should strive to get the maximum they can from their education. Your education is the most valuable investment you will ever make, get your money's worth.
- 2. Knowledge is power; it opens doors and shapes careers - don't leave here without it.**
Go into a course with the attitude that "I want to learn the maximum that I can about the subject matter". Gaining knowledge is like basic research, we never know what might be important until some later time. But, people always respect a display of basic knowledge. Learn how to learn, what to retain and what to filter out. Think about the "thought process" for decision making.
- 3. The best way to learn is to teach.**
Share knowledge, ideas, thoughts, and emotions. Talk to each other, listen to each other, intellectual exchange is a rewarding experience. Effective communication skills are essential to be successful in the professional sciences. Develop a level of professionalism in your interactions with peers and superiors.
- 4. Life is a series of alternative choices; choose wisely.**
Accept responsibility for your actions, do not rely on excuses. Add a new word to your vocabulary - "NOW", "Do It Now"; and delete the word procrastinate.
- 5. There are no mistakes in life, just learning experiences.**
Everything you do is a learning experience, you are better person after making that decision. Do not dwell on the negative. "Mistakes" are nature's way of telling you that you are on the wrong path and to stop, think, backup, and take another turn in the road. Forget your "mistakes", but remember what they taught you.
- 6. Set standards for yourself that meet national criteria**
Be the best that you can be. Rise to the level of your competition. When you apply for jobs, you will be competing with applicants from around the country, not just your immediate peers. Therefore, you must meet national standards in