6 Secrets for Second Year Success

90% of students get better grades when they regularly review notes instead of cramming.

Okay, let’s be real: you probably didn’t go to office hours in first year. This year, no excuses! A-students are going to office hours—you should too!

Think of a specific question to ask ahead of time. For example, “I was interested in what you said about X. But I’m not sure how X is connected to past lectures. Could you help me with that?”

Take a few minutes after class to ask yourself: “How does this lecture build on what I’ve already learned?”

The stuff you learned in first year helps a LOT in second year!

Take 20 minutes and go beyond “How did I do?” Ask yourself these two questions:

a) What went well and where did I lose marks?
b) How can I make sure I understand next time?

Make sure you spend time looking at each question individually.

Reasons to study in a small group:

A+ Get better grades

Have a better attitude about learning

Be more likely to graduate

Create your own nerd squad! To make the most of group studying, choose people who will help you stay focused.

For best results, study with a buddy on the regular.

Train your brain! Just like weightlifters do reps to build strength, A-students make up their own questions and use practice problems to go for gold on their exams.

Take your sample questions to office hours and ask your prof if you’re on the right track.

Early Bird Gets the “A”

Students who seek help early, often, and before they’re stuck are more likely to achieve higher grades.

A-students take advantage of campus programs and services (like the library!) throughout the semester—not only when they get stuck.

Take your sample questions to office hours and ask your prof if you’re on the right track.

9 out of 10 A-students use practice questions to study.

Talk to your professor or visit the library when you’re working on assignments or studying for tests.