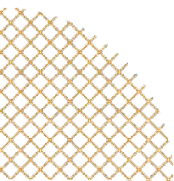


RCNJ

Academic-Success Strategies

Presented by: The Center for Reading & Writing
First-Year Orientation, Summer 2024



What is Academic Success?

Achieving Your Academic Goals

- choose a major
- enroll in courses required to fulfill your degree requirements
- do well in your classes
- maintain a GPA of at least 2.0
- make steady academic progress
- check in regularly with your academic advisor
- graduate from Ramapo College!



Academic-Success Strategies

1. Planning
2. Realistic expectations about reading and writing
3. Seeking academic support
4. Communicating with key campus resources
5. Using Connect
6. Learning Canvas



College Challenges

The reality is even high-achieving high-school graduates are challenged by college work. Why?



Why Students May Be Challenged...

- College requirements are rigorous.
- Time-management/self-management skills need developing.
- Juggling classroom and remote learning.
- Pandemic impacts on learning.
- New and unfamiliar class schedule.
- Overly-ambitious course load.
- Study habits need strengthening.
- New living environment.
- New social life.
- Employment schedule.



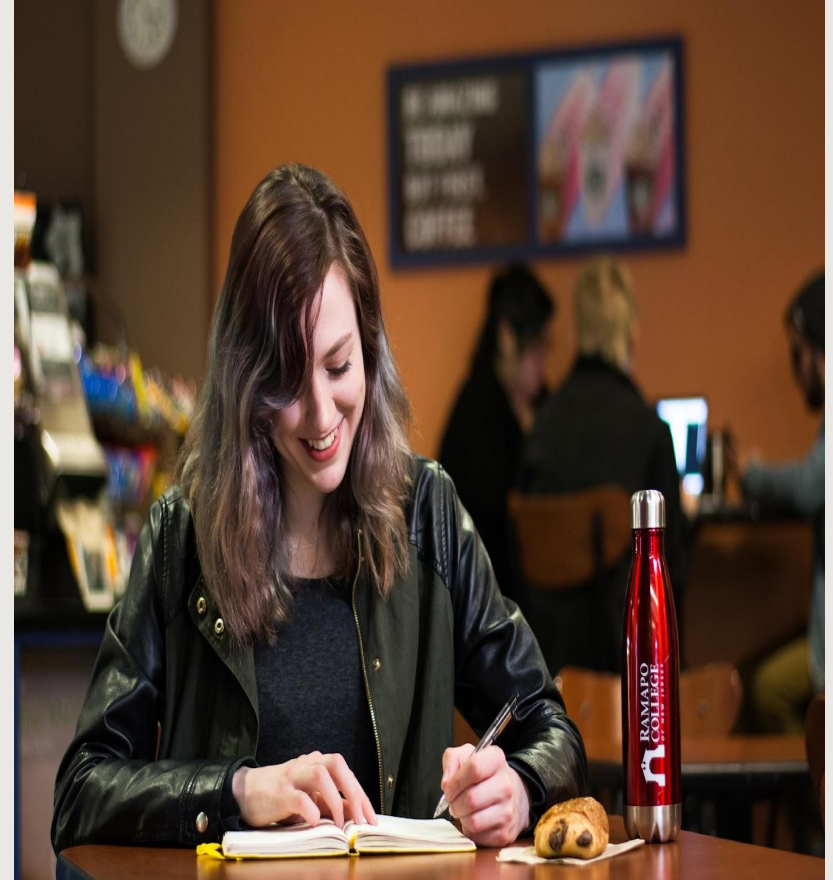
STRATEGY #1: PLANNING

- Ensure access to learning materials, such as books, online resources, and other learning aids.
- Maintain substantial access to Wifi and computer.
- Proactively manage courses, assignments, and other activities.



Time Management

- For every 1 hour a student spends in class, either in person or remotely, 2 hours should be set aside for studying/completing assignments (AACU).
- Students taking a full-time load of 16 credits should set aside about 32 hours per week.
- Many students underestimate the amount of time necessary for college study.
- Due to the academic lag that occurred during COVID, many students will require more study time.



Using a Planner

- Use an online or paper planner.
- Put ALL activities in planner, e.g. classes, study time, job, club meetings, social events.
- Use syllabi at the start of semester to put assignments due in planner.
- Plan daily activities weekly.
- Develop a **habit** of actively using a planner.
- Attend a Center for Reading & Writing workshop on time management.



STRATEGY #2: REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS ABOUT READING AND WRITING

- Most college reading & writing assignments require at least 2 weeks to complete.
- Writing is a long-term process that involves pre-reading, reading, pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing, and polishing.
- Students should plan on visits to the Center for Reading & Writing to complete reading and writing assignments.
- Reading and writing require a sense of curiosity and commitment to analysis and thinking.
- Text should be read more than once and annotated.



STRATEGY #3: SEEK ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- Many high-achieving students seek academic support regularly.
- Academic support is included in college costs.
- Offered in-person & virtually.
- Tutoring information can be found on Ramapo's Intranet homepage.



Center for Reading & Writing



- Serves students on ALL academic levels from first-year through graduate studies.
- Consultations on papers and reading strategies.
- Workshops on writing, study skills, reading, time management, and more.
- Appointments available in-person and remotely 7 days/week.
- Located in the Learning Commons.

The STEM Center

- Tutoring in many of the 1st and 2nd year courses for the following majors:
 - Math
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Physics
 - Computer/Data Science
- Appointments and walk-in sessions are available.
- Peer tutors chosen by professors for each class.
- STEM professional staff support.
- STEM Workshops.
- STEM Community Building Events



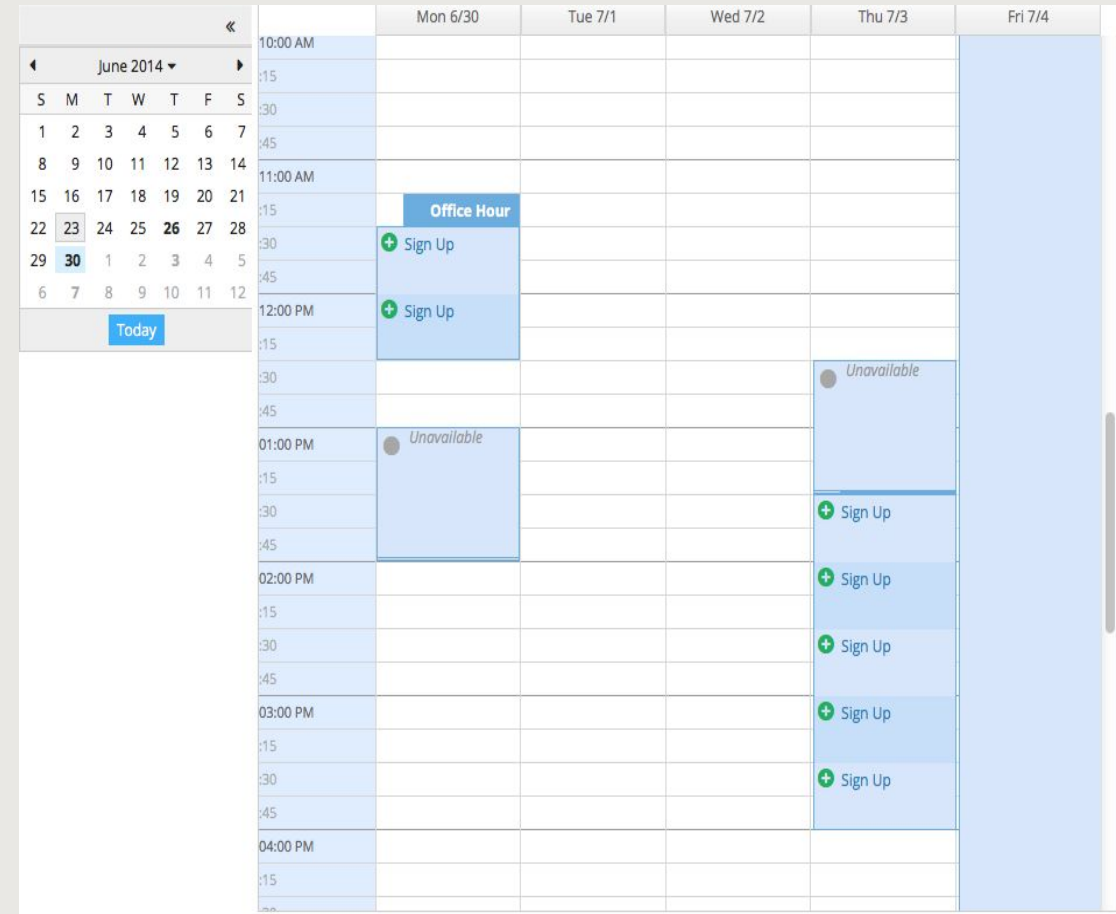
STRATEGY #4: COMMUNICATE WITH KEY CAMPUS RESOURCES



- Ramapo actively monitors student success.
- Communicating with professors is necessary, whether classes are held on campus or remotely.
- Communicating with the offices in your success network is also necessary:
 - Center for Student Success/Academic Advisors
 - Office of Specialized Services
 - Athletic Coaches
 - Center for Health and Counseling
 - EOF Office

STRATEGY #5: USE CONNECT

- Instructors use Connect to provide feedback to students on course progress.
- Progress reports are sent to the student via email in the middle of the semester.
- Students use Connect to make appointments with advisors and support offices.
- Connect houses the student's “success network” of support.



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Connect Progress Reports

- Kudos – Good work. Instructor is pleased with the student's performance.
- Referrals – Instructor recommends an academic support service.
- Flags – Instructor is concerned about performance, including missing assignments and attendance. Student is encouraged to meet with instructor and others in support network.



STRATEGY #6: LEARN CANVAS

- Most courses at Ramapo include a virtual component/s.
- **Canvas** is the Learning Management System used.
- First-year students will be introduced to Canvas by each of their professors.
- Students are encouraged to complete the Canvas tutorial (on Canvas).



How can your students learn about these strategies?

- This workshop is offered in the fall and spring to all students.
- Workshop slides will be posted to the orientation website.
- Instructors provide academic support information in their courses (FYS, CRWT, math, biology, etc).
- Time Management and Study Skills workshops are offered in the fall and spring.
- Academic advisors and peer facilitators in the Center for Student Success provide guidance.



Follow the Center for Reading and Writing on Instagram

@rcnjwriting



Questions?

