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Success in college requires an analysis of the entire college experience. While the most seemingly important aspect of your time will be spent inside of the classroom or lecture hall, it is the decisions you make and strategies you create before you get to the classroom that will determine your level of college success. Now that you have become familiar with learning patterns, which of your learning patterns do you think will be tasked most often by your instructors and the course work? Why?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Now using the Word Chart on the last page, decode your academic major. What Learning Patterns will you need to use in order to be successful in that occupation?

Academic Major:

1.

2.

3.

4.



Having personal learning patterns that don't match up perfectly with your academic major does not mean you are doomed for failure. What it does mean is that you will need to develop strategies to temporarily modify your learning patterns to meet the needs of the course work or occupation, which isn't always easy! What learning patterns will you need to adapt to be successful in your major?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Note Taking Skills

The purpose of note taking is to reinforce information so that it moves from your short term memory to your long term memory for the purpose of retrieval on demand. Ultimately, your notes are a reflection of your personal learning patterns:

- √ If you are at the use-first level of Sequence you probably take notes in an outline format.
- √ If you are at the use-first level of Precision you probably take notes in a narrative format or try to dictate the information being presented.
- √ If you are at the use-first level of Technical reasoning you probably don't write a lot of notes but try to rely on connecting the information being presented with past experiences.
- √ If you are at the use-first level of Confluence you probably don't follow a format and use non-traditional techniques to record information.

Because the classroom is an information based experience, the pattern that is required most often is Precision (As a matter of fact your instructor probably is at the use-first level of Precision and they teach as they learn). So how can you adapt your level of Precision to meet the needs of the course and the instructor?

Develop a note taking strategy with an understanding of your personal

learning patterns and the requirements of the course:

Study Skills

Every college course is different in the way that it is taught, what is required and how you are assessed. Therefore, understanding and identifying those three things should help direct you in the way you should study to be successful in the course. You will always begin studying in the fashion that is natural to you based on your learning patterns, but often, the way in which you naturally study does not match up well with the structure of the course. Here are some tips to enhance your study skills:

- ▶ Work with another student whose learning patterns naturally fit with the requirements of the course and use them as a resource.
- ▶ Treat your years in college as a job that requires you to be in certain places at particular times with a start time and quitting time.
- ▶ Try to pick a location that is for studying only.
- ▶ As you review the course books and your class notes ask yourself what would you ask on a test if you were the instructor.

- ▶ Never be afraid to ask the question **Why?** The answer will provide insights and logic.

What are your Study Skills Strengths?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What are your Study Weaknesses?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What do you need to do to change your study weaknesses into study strengths?

Time Management

Time management is the process of organizing and scheduling your priorities. In other words it is **Sequential** process! The goal of managing your time is to be as efficient and productive as possible in accomplishing tasks.

When you look at traditional strategies for improving time management they include:

- Activity logs
- Calendars
- To do lists
- Action Plans
- Goal Setting

All of these strategies will improve time management but if you do not have the level of Sequence that makes these tasks naturally easy to perform you have to develop strategies for Forging or Intensifying your level of Sequence.

Plan a new strategy that will help you manage your time to complete tasks on time. The plan should have specific goals, have real-world problem solving, and be unique to your own personal learning patterns:



Decision Making

As you have noticed by now, the foundation of learning, and acting upon what you have learned, is decoding the challenge that confronts you with a common vocabulary and an awareness of how you process information.

"Nothing is particularly hard if you divide it into small jobs."

-Henry ford

There are four simple pieces to the puzzle of good decision making:

1. Understanding the overall structure of the decision you are making (what is being rewarded).
2. Understanding the requirements of the decision (How much of your time and what learning patterns are necessary to be successful).
3. Understanding the people you are dealing with and how they process the world around them.
4. Understanding yourself and how you process the world around you.

Here are some other considerations when making a decision:

- What are the short term ramifications of your decision?
- What are the long term ramifications of your decision?
- Who am I affecting by making this decision?
- What are the time requirements of this decision?

- Are your personal learning patterns preventing you from making a sound decision?

Relate a decision you have made in the past that was unsuccessful and in hindsight why was it unsuccessful:

Relate a decision in the past that was successful and why it was successful:



WORD CHART

Sequence

- alphabetize
- arrange
- classify
- group
- list
- order
- organize
- outline
- plan
- put in order
- show a sample

Precise

- accurately
- calibrate
- certainty
- describe
- detail
- document
- exact
- explain
- facts
- identify
- Write

Technical Reasoning

- assemble
- autonomy
- build
- construct
- demonstrate
- erect
- experience
- figure out
- make
- problem-solve
- tools

Confluent

- brainstorm
- create
- different
- ideas
- imagine
- improvise
- invent
- risk
- take a chance
- unique
- unusual