Student Success

Module # 1
Want to know the secrets to student success?

We interviewed some of the most successful students at OCC from a variety of backgrounds and ages. Some of these students were fresh out of high school, some were reentering college, and others were recent veterans. All of them have one thing in common; they have done very well here.

In the pages that follow you will get to learn exactly what these students did to be successful at OCC!
Among the successful students we interviewed, nearly all of them used counselors to assist them in choosing which classes to take. In addition, a counselor can clarify your goal/major selection based on some simple tests. Lastly, our OCC counselors can help you with any difficulties you are experiencing that are affecting your academic performance here. Call 714-432-5078 on Thursdays to make your first appointment.

"The counselors are great here, they help you build your goals step by step. Make sure to call in on Thursdays as this is when the appointments for next week become available."
Johnny Vmanzor
Tip #2

Know your catalog

According to state reports, most students take 20 extra units before transferring. This is almost a full year of unnecessary courses. Not understanding your requirements can cause you to take classes that don’t actually count at all towards your goal. Successful students both utilize counseling appointments as well as take the time to read and study their own graduation/transfer requirements. Save yourself a year or more by only taking courses you actually need from the course catalog.

"Map out your entire plan using the course catalog before your registration dates. Also, find backup courses that will work in each category."
Cat Tran, Student & ASOCC Student President
As far as your grades go, nothing will impact your grades more than missing an assignment or test. To prevent this from happening, it is very important to write all of your due dates for assignments, papers, and tests onto one paper or online calendar. Due dates can be found in the syllabus handed out on the first day of each class.

"I use a day planner and my phone to track homework, tests, and meetings. Without them I would be overwhelmed and not remember everything." Lynn Aljadda
Tip #4
utilize free tutoring

The myth is that only struggling students go in for tutoring. The reality is that some of the top students in your class getting A’s go in for the free tutoring services at our Student Success Center. Nearly all subjects at OCC have tutoring available.

Also, instead of just turning in your papers, get them checked out first for free in the Writing Center. The staff will help you achieve better grades by showing you how to write at the college level.

"I wish I would have attended the student success center earlier. The math tutoring is awesome. In addition you can study there and simply raise your hand when you have a question." Bradley Golden, OCC Student and Navy Veteran
Imagine if you had a way to learn much faster... Interested? You can become an active learner; it causes your brain to absorb and process information much more effectively. The three main ways to be an active learner are

1) Asking questions in class
2) Participate in class discussions
3) Take written notes each day
Tip #6
Form study groups

At some point you most likely will have a class that will challenge you. One of the best ways to tackle a hard class is to form a study group with 3-5 people. The main benefits are you will have partners to review lectures and work together on the difficult concepts. Lastly, study groups are also a great resource when you feel overwhelmed.

"Find or create a study group, especially with other people who share your major. You gain a lot of advice and information as well as to create a very motivated atmosphere that pushes you to go farther and achieve more." Elisa Namdar
Clubs are a great way to meet other students whose interests are similar to yours. We have more than 60 student clubs and organizations that are open to all registered students. These clubs sponsor social events, special activities, speakers, fundraising, and community service events. Club rush is a great event in the fall to see all the campus organizations you can join.

[Orange Coast College Clubs List]

"Being involved allowed me to make many friends. It makes you more aware of opportunities at OCC. In addition you will be able to get more scholarships and build your academic resume."

Bradley Golden
Every student is given a registration appointment time. This is the earliest date you can register for your courses online. By going even a few days past your appointment time, you may find many courses are full. Most students don’t realize that they can look up their courses before this date. Then at the morning of your registration appointment time, quickly register and pay for the classes you need at www.orangecoastcollege.edu

"10 minutes can make the difference between getting a class and getting on the waitlist. Have the 5 digit numbers for each course ready for right when your appointment time opens."

J.P. La Torre
Tip #9

*Online courses = discipline*

Based on student interviews, it requires a high degree of discipline to be able to stay on top of an online course. Due to the fact there is no classroom and regular meeting time, it is easy to forget when assignments and exams are due. Stay on top of them by logging in regularly and reading the announcements.

"Online courses are just as hard as the on-campus ones, but require weekly and sometimes daily logins to not miss anything."

Joe Milunas, OCC Instructional Designer
Student Services Section:
Unlock your Success with these programs!

Now that we have covered some key tips for success, we will now review the student programs that are available to you at OCC.

For a complete list of programs, go to:

www.orangecoastcollege.edu
Counseling Services

All students at Orange Coast College are **required** to create a Student Educational Plan (SEP) with guidance from a counselor. During this appointment your counselor will help you develop a specialized plan (SEP) to achieve your academic goals. This one page document is your roadmap to make sure you are taking courses that count towards your goal.

**How to schedule a counseling appointment:**

1. Visit Watson Hall or Call 714-432-5078 to Schedule an Appointment
2. Attend your 30 Minute Appointment on Time
3. Fill out an Ed-plan and Choose Classes
Financial Aid

Student financial aid is money provided to college students (if eligible) in a variety of forms to help pay for the cost of a college education. The purpose of student financial aid is not limited to tuition and fees, but can be applied to basic costs for a student who is attending college such as room (rent), board (meals), transportation, and miscellaneous personal necessities.

The first step if you need financial assistance to pay for college is to **complete the online FAFSA Form**. Applications for the following academic year are accepted beginning January 1\textsuperscript{st} of each year and the deadline to apply to guarantee processing in time for the fall semester is March 2\textsuperscript{nd}. Even if you miss these dates, still complete the FASFA to participate.
Re-Entry Center

Re-Entry Center serves adults who are returning to school after a break in their education. The Center offers counseling, workshops, re-entry classes (COUN A101) and a lounge with a re-entry library, as well as free coffee and tea. Limited funds are available to assist low income single parents and displaced homemakers studying occupational education. The Re-Entry Center is housed on the fourth floor of Watson Hall.

Re-Entry Website
The Career Center provides students full access to information about school and vocational occupations. The Career Center consists of a library and a computer lab. The Center has career assessments that can help students optimize their career paths. Students can choose from a wide selection of resources to research career information which provides job descriptions, California and national pay, job outlook, benefits, and tips. The Career Center is located on the third floor of Watson Hall.

Everyone is welcome to use the facility.

[Career Center Website]
Need help with your courses? The Student Success Center professional staff and student assistants will answer your questions about math and provide help in problem-solving. The Center provides a variety of audio, video, computer, and printed resources for you. You can also learn about the self-paced math program where you can take math courses with more tutoring and flexibility with how much time you have to complete the work in the course.

Student Success Center Website
Transfer Opportunity Program

The goal of the Transfer Opportunity Program (TOP) is to recruit, retain, and transfer historically under-represented students to four-year institutions. TOP provides all students with a support system that will increase their probability to transfer.

Who is eligible for TOP?

TOP was originally designed for members of historically under-represented groups (African-American, Native-American and Latino/Hispanic). Currently, TOP is open to all students who are incoming freshman, first generation college students and have an interest in transferring to a four-year institution.

Some of the services include: course selection, 4-year school tours, group study, academic support, and even specialized courses to help students succeed. The TOP is located on the second floor of Watson Hall.

TOP Program Website
Puente Program

PUENTE, co-sponsored by the University of California (UC) systems and Community colleges, is a state-wide program that operates in 39 California community colleges. Its purpose is to help students acquire the skills they need to pursue their goals and attain a Bachelor’s degree. Over the years of its history, PUENTE’s three program components – writing, counseling, and mentoring – have developed particularly notable strengths. The Puente Office is located on the second floor of Watson Hall.

PUENTE accepts (32) students in anyone of the programs based on one academic year. Visit the Puente website to learn more.
Extended Opportunities Program and Services (EOPS)

EOPS assists economically and educationally disadvantaged students. The student must be a resident of California and enrolled in 12 or more units to be accepted by the EOPS program. Students must qualify to receive a Board of Governor’s Grant (BOGFW) and must be educationally disadvantaged as determined by the EOPS Program.

Counseling, grants, campus referrals, student recognition, community outreach, cultural field trips, clubs, transfer assistance, bus passes, priority registration, orientation, tutoring, and retention activities are some of the services offered. The EOPS Office is located in Watson Hall on the 4th Floor.

EOPS Website
Next Step:
Close This Document and Take the First Quiz
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