

Individual Scholarship.

Dr. Richard Voorneveld, the former Dean of Students at the College of Charleston, did a study of student leaders who had right around a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

He first interviewed students who excelled academically and was able to pinpoint specific behaviors that each exhibited.

He got his underachievers to agree to emulate the behaviors for one semester. Every one of them, by modeling the behaviors of the excellent students, got over a 3.0 GPA the very next semester. They each raised their grades by one letter grade!

The following are the behaviors Dr. Voorneveld was able to pinpoint:

1. Never, ever, never miss a class.

Education is one thing many of us pay for but do not demand that we receive. Students are happy when class is canceled. They should treat class like a job. You simply have to go, no matter what is happening or how you feel. If you are way ahead, or totally lost, in a class, I guarantee that you will pick up valuable information at class that you would have otherwise missed. That can make the difference on a test.

2. Sit in the first row

Studies show that sitting up front has fewer distractions and it is easier to hear, see and ask questions. The professor will also notice you more, which cannot hurt.

3. Read your notes from the last class before the next class

Where does the professor always start? He or she often says, "Now where did I leave off last time?" If you know, you will be "in sync" with what comes next.

4. Do the assigned reading, but DO NOT highlight the book.

If something is important, write it on a note card. Then, study the note cards. Writing it down will help you remember it and studying the note cards is a good study aid. Flip through the note cards as you study, adding new ones as you go and setting aside ones you "have cold" for studying for tests.

5. Visit your professor once a week during office hours.

Getting to know your teacher personally has many benefits. They will know you are serious about their class, you can get clarification on certain ideas in the course material, and it will make it that much more difficult for them to give a low grade when they know of the effort you are putting forth (and they see you in every class!!!).

6. Do any extra credit that is offered.

Extra Credit affects the bottom line. If you get a C on a test and the teacher offers extra credit, you can often turn that C into a B. You simply must take advantage of that.

If the members of your chapter are able to buy into each of these, and they do them religiously, I can guarantee that their grades will go up by the equivalent of one full letter grade. It is that easy. – “Chip” Voorneveld