



WILDCAT WISDOM!

- **Research your instructors** – Use “ratemyprofessors.com,” your fellow students, or a learning lab to learn about your instructor before you register for a class.
- **Register early** – Because NVC is growing at such an amazing rate, Students should register as early as possible in order to have an ideal schedule and get good instructors.
- **Research your disability** – Knowledge about your own strengths and weaknesses can be a vital step to overcoming disability related learning difficulties. You should review your own documentation and learn how to effectively reach your educational goals.
- **Pay attention to course formats** – There are many different types of course formats available at NVC (e.g. short or “flex” classes, online, or hybrid courses). It is important for you to carefully consider the likelihood of being successful within a certain course format. Take a look at the Access Office’s “course formats” guide to help you make that decision.
- **Complete developmental courses immediately** – Students who are required to take developmental courses (which are most students) should start taking them during their first semester and continue until they have finished the developmental sequence. Pushing these requirements back may keep you from following your desired degree plan and graduating. Taking these courses every semester will help your performance in these important areas.
- **Pay before the deadline** – After you have registered for classes, make sure you know the deadlines in which you have to make payments for those classes. If you do not pay before that deadline you will be dropped from the classes.
- **Request your letters every semester** – Every semester you take classes, you need to send us a written request in order for us to send letters concerning your accommodations to your instructors.
- **Find your class** – For brand new college students, coming up to the campus before the semester starts to find classrooms and other locations can be beneficial. Then you will have less anxiety about getting to the right place at the right time.
- **Learn balance** – Juggling work, family, and school responsibilities can be very challenging. Plan on each 3 hour class taking up 10 hours of your life per week. That is 3 hours in the classroom and 7 hours for labs, homework, reading, and studying. Remember to include your work hours and it will add up quick! Also, taking an enjoyable class may help you stay motivated.
- **Keep your syllabus** – The Syllabus is like a roadmap for each class. It has very important information on it, do not lose it! Laminate it and keep it in a place where you can refer to it.

- **Read your syllabus** - Pay close attention to the information in the syllabus. Most teachers include a schedule of the class, grading information, and course expectations. Knowing the instructor's policies for attendance, classroom behavior, and late work can make the difference between passing and failure.
- **Go to class!!** – When an instructor's attendance policy allows students to miss class, the purpose of these absences is for emergencies. Problems will arise if you use all your allowed absences for sleeping in, then you expect to be excused when you get sick and cannot come to class. **The Access office does not approve students to be excused from going to class.** If a medical condition renders you unable to go to class for a significant period of time, you can contact the college's enrollment office to discuss getting a "medical withdrawal." In addition, you should contact your instructors concerning absences in order to obtain information that may have been missed.
- **Talk to your instructors about accommodations** – Within the first two weeks of the class, you should introduce yourself to your instructor and ask about the confidential letter.
- **Plan for homework/lab time** – For every 3 hour class you take, plan on spending 10 hours per week in all. That is 3 hours in class and 7 hours for labs, studying, homework, and projects. This 10 hour rule is why a student is considered to be "full-time" if he or she is taking 4 classes.
- **Work together** – One of your best assets in your classes is your classmates. They can help you take notes, study for tests, and remember deadlines. Get a couple of e-mail addresses and phone numbers from your classmates!
- **Create a space for studying** – Whether it is on campus or in your closet, find a place of peace and quiet that you use for studying. Use soft music without words to help drown out background noise.
- **Create a specific time for studying** – Remember to insert study time in to your daily schedule for each subject. Make it part of your regular routine like brushing your teeth.
- **Remember adaptive technology** – Even for students who may not require using it, adaptive technology (such as text enlarging or reading software) can help you be successful without putting as much time and effort into studying.
- **Contact Access office staff** – If you have difficulty with your accommodations, ask any Access office staff member for help! This will help you get the right information from the right person as soon as possible
- **Keep track of your grades** – It is not necessarily the instructor's job to keep track of how you are doing in your classes. Use the syllabus as your guide and know your own grades!
- **Know the Withdrawal Dates** – If you are not going to pass a class, find out when the last day is that you can withdraw and avoid getting an undesired grade. If the class is developmental (such as MATH 0300, the "0" first means it is developmental) you should talk to your instructor about getting an "IP" which stands for "In Progress." Anything is better than an "F."