Steps for Success
(from a UW-Eau Claire student who struggled in classes and then found success)

- **Reflect**—It’s time to identify the reasons why you were suspended. You half-assed-tried in college the first time, and it didn’t work out. That’s why your ass is here and that needs to be implanted into your brain.
- **Organization**—Don’t put assignments in your books. Get an actual folder or accordion folder to file your papers from all of your classes. This will prevent you from losing homework and turning stuff in late.
- **Planning**—Take the time to plan out your schedule. I know you think that you don’t need to do this, and I was the same way. I was like OMG this is soooo dumb, but it seriously helps. You have to stick to the schedule and the time that you have allotted. You stop feeling rushed all the time, and it makes it easier to know where you are going to be and when. This also eliminates having to remember when all your assignments are due.
- **Do the work**—Take the time to do the work now and not at the end of the semester. What I mean is to fully understand the material and not learn it and dump it. Albert Einstein didn’t become one or the world’s greatest physicist overnight; he worked many long years to get to where he was. This will also help with finals because you won’t be cramming.
- **Check yourself before you wreck yourself**—You have to do this step or you might as well walk to the bookstore and give them back the books. If you don’t understand the material, GO TO THE STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER! They are there to help you get tutoring and other students use that place more than you think. This is where more of the good students go for help and don’t be afraid to ask for it.
- **Resources**—This one piggy backs off of the last one. Go and talk to your professors if you are struggling with the material. They have office hours for a reason, and 75% of the time they are sitting in their office praying that someone walks thru the door. They only have so many emails to check, and after 100 games of free cell they are pretty bored. There is a reason that everybody in America knows the saying there is only one dumb question, and it’s the question you don’t ask.
- **Prioritize**—If you want to be in college then you will be, but if you don’t then your heart won’t let you. What I mean by this is if you want to get a degree, then you will put studying before the Water Street party, and if you don’t want to be in college then refer to check yourself. The bookstore is still open…
- **Diet**—This is the key to having a fully functioning brain. It’s a Bugatti that needs premium and not basic unleaded gas. If you want to feel amazing every morning you get up, ready for what life throws at you, then change your diet.
- **Sleep**—You need to get as much sleep as possible. You can’t live on 2-4 hours a night. Try to make out a plan for 8 hours of sleep a night and the weekends. Don’t sleep all day on the weekends. This is actually detrimental to you.
- **Go to class**—If you are skipping class, you are wasting money. You pay so much a semester to come here and by skipping classes you are throwing away $30 each time you don’t attend class. You are also missing valuable information that you need to know for good grades on tests and quizzes.
- **Don’t give up**—I saved this one for last. You are not dumb by any means and this is the time to show it. This is the time to prove to yourself and to all the naysayers in your life that you CAN do this. You can achieve success and get a college diploma. You need to find the motivation to always want to do more. Do 5 more math problems, learn 5 more vocabulary words, write 5 more sentences, because a little goes a long way.