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A Successful Academic Career

People go to college for many different reasons. Some go to further their education, while others go due to higher demands of their job. Despite the reasons, most students fall into one of the following groups: those who work hard, those who do not work hard but still manage to get good grades, those who do just enough to pass with the desired grade, and those who do not try at all. In the end, the ones that turn out to be the most successful are usually those who study hard and strive for excellence.

Most of the students fall into the group categorized as the hard-working group; it is also the most successful group. Hard workers tend to become the most successful because of their determination and attitude. Their determination drives them on in times of failure, and their attitude provokes them to seek the help they need. These students constantly spend time outside of class studying, going over class material, and attending study groups. This effort enables them to retain the information for a longer period of time and helps them get a better grasp of the main ideas. When these hard-working students are asked to answer the question in one sentence on a test, they will attempt to provide an answer that will express their knowledge to the utmost extent. To them, school is serious business. Although not everyone in this category is successful, these students continue to make an effort to further their chances of success.

Besides those who work hard for their grades, there are those who manage to get a good grade without working as hard and occasionally come out just as successful. These students are very active listeners and participants in class activities. However, what distinguishes the

students from these first two groups is the effort they each put into obtaining their grades. Students in this category are very smart but are inclined to stay away from anything troublesome. Some of these things may include taking notes in class, working on study guides to help prepare for the test, and reading outside materials that are suggested but not mandatory. They do not see a point in doing extra work when they already understand the ideas and concepts. While they may do great on all the tests, the information is retained for only a short period of time. So, in the long run, some of that information is lost. This is the main reason that students in this group are second to those who work hard.

Students who put forth minimum effort in class are not necessarily unsuccessful. They are those who do just enough to help them pass with the desired grade. They prefer to spend time doing other things, like participating in school activities and spending time with their friends. However, not all students who fall in this category are like that. I know many friends who would fall in this category not because they do not want to spend time studying or like to party but because many of them are involved in activities that interfere with their studies. When test scores are posted, the results usually reflect the minimum effort that was put in.

Students who fail to try are the least successful of all. They go to class, they take some notes, and they manage to sit through the lectures. What they do not do is study hard and perform well on the tests. These students fall in between those who put forth minimum effort and those who look over the material five minutes before a test.

Everyone has his own reasons for going to school. These reasons determine the amount of effort one puts forth, and this effort determines the outcome of one's academic career. However, putting all things aside, in order to get the most out of one's academic career, one must have the attitude and determination to work hard and overcome his weaknesses.