

## Successful Strategies Outside the Classroom

- ✓ **Meet regularly with your professors:** All professors at VCSU have scheduled office hours where they are willing to assist you work through any questions or confusions you may have. This is a great way for them to get to know you!!
- ✓ **Make Time to Study:** Remember that the majority of your learning will take place OUTSIDE the classroom. Studying is a major component. You have access to professors, academic advisors, the Learning Center and the Retention Office to help you.
- ✓ **Visit the Library!:** The library at VCSU has really great resources to help you with getting references and finding material to help you do your research. The staff members at the library are very knowledgeable and can help you start any research project.
- ✓ **Take careful and effective notes in class:** Rewrite and combine your study and lecture notes in one outline, put it all in your own words. This will help you to retain the information.
- ✓ **Get Involved in Student Activities:** VCSU has numerous on campus activities and opportunities to get involved and meet other students, faculty and staff. There also many other student organizations that will help you make these connections. The more involved you are, the more likely you are to be successful.
- ✓ **Find Employment on Campus:** If you have to work, the best place to work is in a part time position on campus. This will increase your chances of success, allow you to meet other students and staff. You will also learn the art of time management and your on campus supervisor is more likely to be flexible with you when you have conflicts with classes, exams etc.
- ✓ **Use On Campus Housing:** Especially in your first year, living on campus will prove beneficial. This will help you adjust better to VCSU and get involved on campus. Usually, students who commute to school do not develop the same level of engagement on campus and are therefore at greater risk of leaving VCSU before completion.



- ✓ **Get Academic Advising Regularly!** Your academic advisors are a major part of your success at VCSU! It is important to meet with your advisor at least once per semester to ensure that you remain on track with your plan of study and can quickly address any concerns about your course schedule.
  - Remember that although your friends are here to help you, they don't always know what is best for you. They don't know which catalog you are in or know all the university regulations. So meet with your advisor!
- ✓ **Get Regular Tutoring Help:** VCSU has a wonderful Learning Center with tutoring services in many courses. Whatever you need help with, whether is math, writing, biology, you name it, we can find a way to help you do it!
- ✓ **Find a Mentor!:** One of things that will increase your likelihood of success is finding someone who you feel comfortable with to help you achieve your goals and help you stay on the path of success. A mentor can be official or unofficial and may be able to provide you with networking opportunities, counseling, sponsoring and will encourage you to be successful. You could consider a faculty or staff member to serve as your mentor or even have multiple!
- ✓ **Remember to Organize your Time!:** Consider what you can and cannot do and do not take on more than you can bear! Study when it is time to study and play when it is time to play. Reward yourself for sticking to your plan/schedule. Have a daily and weekly schedule, review it often and make helpful lists.
- ✓ **Get Support from Family and Friends:** Ensure as best as possible that you have the support of your family and friends. One way to do this is to stay in touch with them and keep them abreast and engaged with the progress and success you are making at VCSU. They are often your biggest cheerleaders!
- ✓ **Pay Attention to Your Health:** Success at VCSU will be greatly impacted by how well you take care of yourself. Remember to pay attention to eating a healthy diet, getting adequate exercise and enough rest! This will put you in a better position to focus on your work and complete your degree!
- ✓ **Don't wait til it's too late to get help!:** *To help ensure your academic and personal success and to overcome anything causing you difficulty in your VCSU experience, please visit the Office of Retention Services located in McFarland 208A, call 701-845-7306 or email [Nadja.johnson@vcsu.edu](mailto:Nadja.johnson@vcsu.edu).*