

Tips for Success in Biology/Anatomy

(Courtesy of Dr. Michael Franklin)

The following information will help you do well in your life science class. While each student has different study habits and varying degrees of success, this should be of some assistance. Many of these tips come from experience both observed and personal.

1. Review lecture notes **on a regular basis**. Waiting until the night before to study for a quiz or exam guarantees frustration. (in other words, don't cram)
2. Unless otherwise directed, use your texts as a reference to clarify topics discussed in lecture. There is much more detail in the texts, than is covered in lecture. Review the information to gain more insight and additional details from lecture notes.
3. Emphasize the key concepts and ideas. Most of the assignments, quizzes and tests are designed to determine what you understand. On the other hand, some questions will require a knowledge of complete, specific details.
4. **Be in class every day and on time**. I cover what I consider to be the most important points in class. Missing class or being tardy hinders your goal of the best grade you can achieve.
5. Life sciences are: hands on, ears on, eyes on. All senses are used in a science classroom. There is no make-up experience that equals the experience gained from doing a lab.
6. Come to class prepared. Preview (scan) the chapter to get an idea of what's going to be covered.
7. If something is not clear, *ask questions*. Asking questions about the material is never irritating. Questions such as "what time do we get out of here?" and "Which pep rally do we have?" are irritating. But anyone engaging in the class always gets my attention.
8. If you are lost or don't understand anything, **ask**. If you don't ask, I will assume you know. If I can assume you know it, its fair game on a quiz or test or classwork/homework assignment. Use email, ask on my webpage, stick around after class, whatever you need to do to assume responsibility for your learning.
9. Investigators from all branches of science collaborate and verify data, but your work should not be word for word identical to someone else's. Form study groups, exchange emails, use Google drive, etc. If you can explain a topic (e.g. Punnett Squares or describe the location of the ischial tuberosity) to a colleague, you will have a very clear understanding of the topic. If necessary, ask me if you can explain it to me.

10. No student anticipates a failing grade at the outset of a class. Sometimes, outside help is necessary; you may need to go to tutoring. Sometimes even your best work will not result in an A – fact of life.
11. I expect all of you have had some basic sciences. We cover a tremendous amount of material in this class. Some topics may not seem directly related (i.e. as if I have gone off on a tangent) but trust me it's related and usually another way to help you understand the material. Don't discard any tools that may help you.
12. No one anticipates problems, but *never* wait until the last minute to discuss issues and problems. Life happens, but not giving me the courtesy of communicating with me, will make matters worse. Communication with bosses and other authority figures is a fact of life. Don't assume I know what is going on and have all the facts, otherwise you are expecting me to listen to rumor and gossip. Remember there is only a small window to make up or reschedule a test, and most labs cannot be set up a second time.
13. I cannot stress enough – *Responsibility and Accountability, as well as Accuracy and Precision*. You are responsible for all information presented. If something isn't clear, it is up to YOU to ask questions. If you don't ask, I don't know what you don't know. If you miss class, I won't remember when you come back what you missed. **The grade I report is the grade you earned. No, I don't round up, and no there is no extra credit.**
14. I have no patience for academic dishonesty in any form. If you do the work and are diligent, you will get the grade you believe you deserve. I strive for transparency in all regards, and frequently make comments in PowerSchool.
15. PHONES have no place in a classroom. Turn it off and put it away.
16. If you ask “do you want us to write this?” then the answer will be yes. If you ask if this will be on the test, the answer will be yes, and worth the most points.
17. Finally, as far as I know, I was not a gypsy fortune teller in a former life. I don't read Tarot cards, and don't have ESP. Talk to me, ask me, or email me. Don't be passive and expect me to read your mind. (I don't have a crystal ball, either)