

# Academic-Success Strategies

Presented by: The Center for Reading & Writing  
First-Year Orientation, Summer 2024



# What is Academic Success?

## Achieving Your Academic Goals

- choose a major
- enroll in courses required to fulfill your degree requirements
- do well in your classes
- maintain a GPA of at least 2.0
- make steady academic progress
- check in regularly with your academic advisor
- graduate from Ramapo College!



# Academic-Success Strategies

1. Planning
2. Realistic expectations about reading and writing
3. Seeking academic support
4. Communicating with key campus resources
5. Using Connect
6. Learning Canvas



# College Challenges

The reality is even high-achieving high-school graduates are challenged by college work. Why?





# Why Students May Be Challenged...

- College requirements are rigorous
- Time management/self management skills need developing
- Study habits need strengthening
- Pandemic impacts on learning
- New and unfamiliar class schedule
- New living environment
- New social life
- Employment schedule
- Overly ambitious course load
- New-found independence



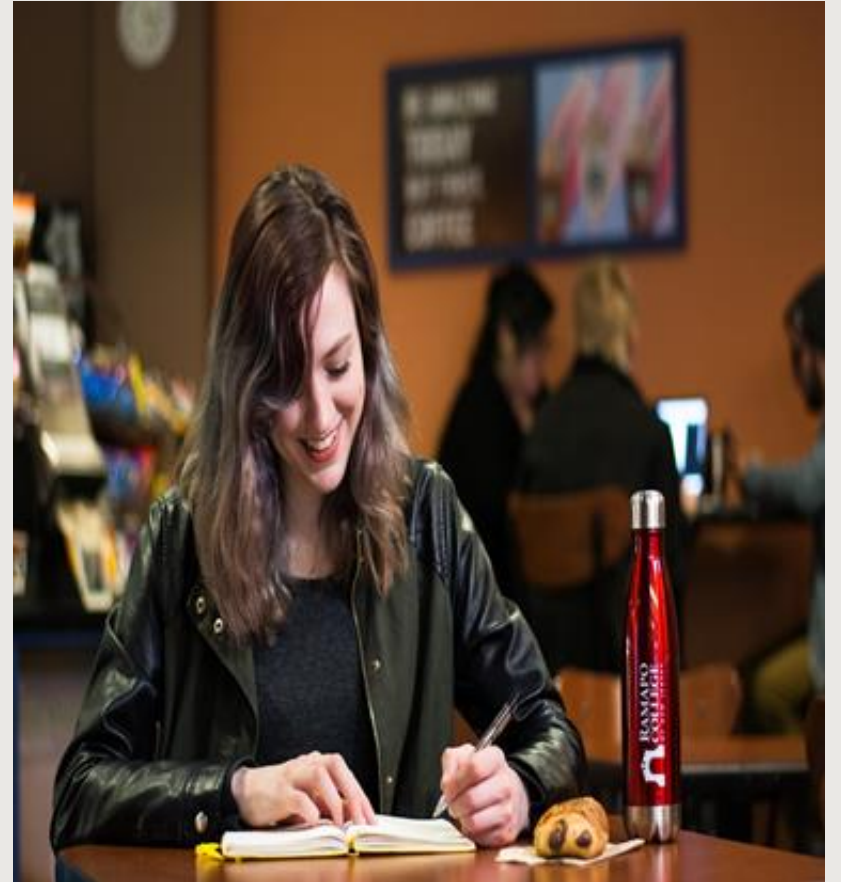
# STRATEGY #1: PLANNING

- Ensure access to learning materials, such as books, online resources, and other learning aids.
- Maintain substantial access to Wifi and computer.
- Proactively manage courses, assignments, and other activities.



# Time Management

- For every 1 hour a student spends in class, either in person or remotely, 2 hours should be set aside for studying/completing assignments (AACU).
- Students taking a full-time load of 16 credits should set aside about 32 hours per week.
- Many students underestimate the amount of time necessary for college study.
- Due to the academic lag that occurred during COVID, many students will require more study time.





# Using a Planner

- Use an online or paper planner.
- Put ALL activities in planner, e.g. classes, study time, job, club meetings, social events.
- Use syllabi at the start of semester to put assignments due in planner.
- Plan daily activities weekly.
- Develop a **habit** of actively using a planner.
- Attend a Center for Reading & Writing workshop on time management.





# STRATEGY #2: REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS ABOUT READING AND WRITING

- Most college reading & writing assignments require at least 2 weeks to complete.
- Writing is a long-term process that involves pre-reading, reading, pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing, and polishing.
- Students should plan on visits to the Center for Reading & Writing to complete reading and writing assignments.
- Reading and writing require a sense of curiosity and commitment to analysis and thinking.
- Text should be read more than once and annotated.



# STRATEGY #3: SEEK ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- Many high-achieving students seek academic support regularly.
- Academic support is included in college costs.
- Offered in-person & virtually.
- Tutoring information can be found on Ramapo's Intranet homepage.





# Center for Reading & Writing



- Serves students on ALL academic levels from first-year through graduate studies.
- Consultations on papers and reading strategies.
- Workshops on writing, study skills, reading, time management, and more.
- Appointments available in-person and remotely 7 days/week.
- Located in the Learning Commons.



# The STEM Center

- Tutoring in many of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year courses for the following majors:
  - Math
  - Biology
  - Chemistry
  - Physics
  - Computer/Data Science
- Appointments and walk-in sessions are available.
- Peer tutors chosen by professors for each class.
- STEM professional staff support
- STEM Workshops



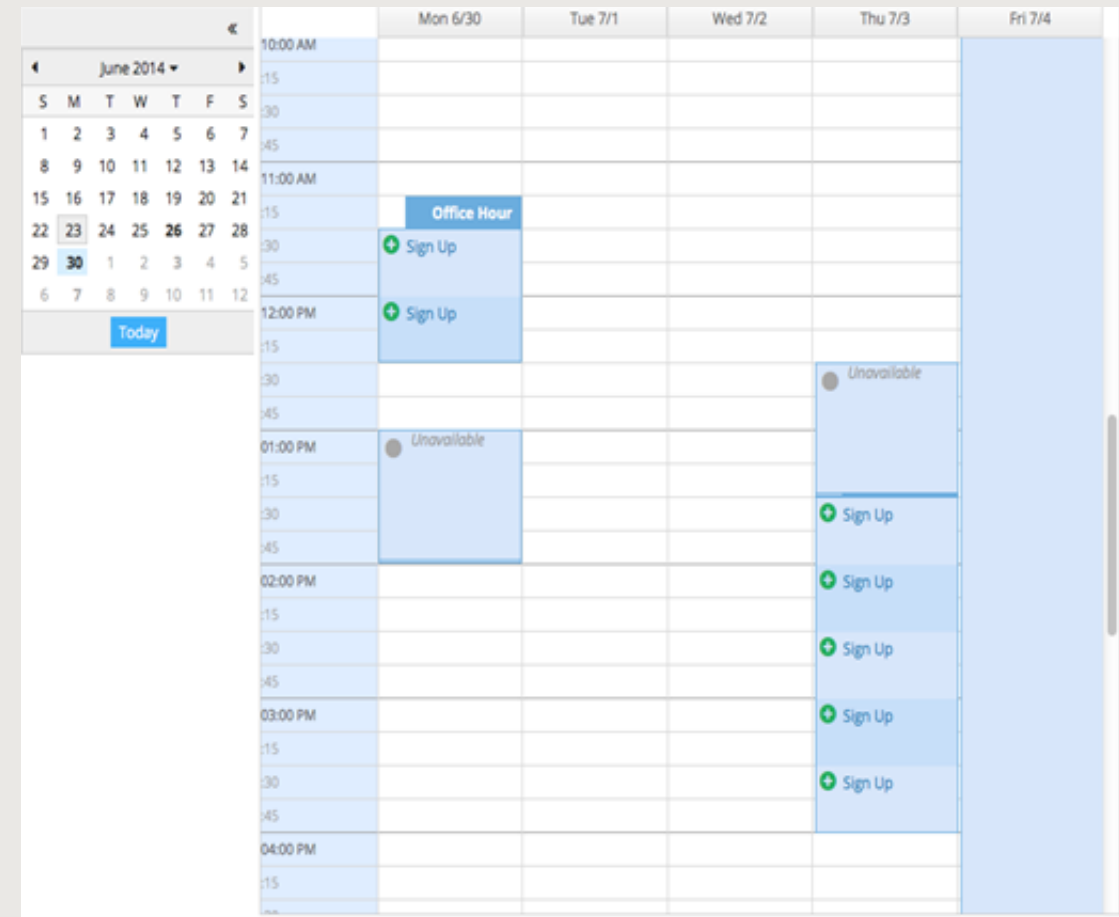
# STRATEGY #4: COMMUNICATE WITH KEY CAMPUS RESOURCES



- Ramapo actively monitors student success.
- Communicating with professors is necessary, whether classes are held on campus or remotely.
- Communicating with the offices in your success network is also necessary:
  - Center for Student Success/Academic Advisors
  - Office of Specialized Services
  - Athletic Coaches
  - Center for Health and Counseling
  - EOF Office

# STRATEGY #5: USE CONNECT

- Instructors use Connect to provide feedback to students on course progress.
- Progress reports are sent to the student via email in the middle of the semester.
- Students use Connect to make appointments with advisors and support offices.
- Connect houses the student's "success network" of support.



		Mon 6/30	Tue 7/1	Wed 7/2	Thu 7/3	Fri 7/4
10:00 AM						
11:00 AM		Office Hour				
		Sign Up				
12:00 PM		Sign Up				
01:00 PM		Unavailable			Unavailable	
02:00 PM					Sign Up	
					Sign Up	
					Sign Up	
					Sign Up	
					Sign Up	
03:00 PM					Sign Up	
					Sign Up	
04:00 PM						



# Connect Progress Reports

- Kudos – Good work. Instructor is pleased with the student's performance.
- Referrals – Instructor recommends an academic support service.
- Flags – Instructor is concerned about performance, including missing assignments and attendance. Student is encouraged to meet with instructor and others in support network.



# STRATEGY #6: LEARN CANVAS

- Most courses at Ramapo include a virtual component/s.
- **Canvas** is the Learning Management System used.
- First-year students will be introduced to Canvas by each of their professors.
- Students are encouraged to complete the Canvas tutorial (on Canvas).





# How can your students learn about these strategies?

- This workshop is offered in the fall and spring to all students.
- Workshop slides will be posted to the orientation website.
- Instructors provide academic support information in their courses (FYS, CRWT, math, biology, etc).
- Time Management and Study Skills workshops are offered in the fall and spring.
- Academic advisors and peer facilitators in the Center for Student Success provide guidance.





# Follow the Center for Reading and Writing on Instagram

@rcnjwriting



# Questions?



**Please complete the quiz at  
the link below:**

**<https://cglink.me/2fF/s60284>**

