



TRiO Student Support Services
South Dakota State University
You can go anywhere from here!

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Tips for Success in Psychology

- ❖ After your first class, **read your syllabus thoroughly** so you know what to expect in the months to come. Refer to your syllabus frequently throughout the semester.
- ❖ **Sit in the front row** so that your complete focus is on the instructor.
- ❖ **Hand in ALL of your assignments on time**; otherwise you are likely to lose perfectly good points.
- ❖ The quality and organization of your notes will likely improve if you **prepare for each lecture**. Be sure to read the assigned chapters before class.
- ❖ **ALWAYS do extra credit** when it is offered.
- ❖ If you have difficulty keeping up with lecture notes, or if you are an auditory learner, **taping the lectures is a helpful strategy**. (Be sure to get the instructor's permission first.)
- ❖ **Reread the lecture notes within 24 to 48 hours of class**, and weekly after that.
- ❖ Instead of simply reading the notes to yourself, **try reading them aloud or into a tape recorder**.
- ❖ **Pay close attention to terms and concepts introduced in the readings**. Familiar words may have new and specialized meanings in psychology. When you are reading, be sure you understand the meaning of psychology terms.
- ❖ Psychology readings often stress particular theories with supporting evidence. **Be careful not to confuse what is fact and what is theory or opinion**.
- ❖ **Work with other students in class to prepare for tests**. Compare lecture notes to ensure accuracy and completeness.
- ❖ **Find out what types of questions will be on the test** (multiple choice, essay, fill in the blank, true/false).
- ❖ **Develop a positive relationship with your instructor**. If you have questions, go visit him/her during office hours. Instructors usually welcome questions.