



FIRST TERM SUCCESS TIPS FOR NEW STUDENTS AT SOUTHWESTERN OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE (SOCC)

As early as possible (2-3 months prior to the start of the term):

- Apply for financial aid (as soon as possible after January 1). **Don't assume you are not eligible!** Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online for a faster response – go to www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Obtain any previous college transcripts. Contact the college that you attended previously, or go to their web site for instructions.
- Get admitted, take your placement test, attend an advising appointment, and register for courses.

After you are registered:

- Get a student ID card at the Student First Stop Center in Dellwood Hall.
- Check out the required textbooks; either bring your schedule to the Bookstore or check online.
- Log in to your student account. Go to the SOCC web site at www.socc.edu and click on **WebAdvisor**.
- Use your student account to check for your financial aid award and your term bill. Pencil out your finances for the term.
- Use your schedule and a campus map to locate your classes; come on campus and walk your route to find each building and the closest parking.
- If you are taking a WebCT (distance) class, locate important information – including a tutorial – on the SOCC web site. Go to www.socc.edu, click on **Distance Learning**, then **Before You Begin**.
- Log in to your SOCC e-mail account. If you don't think you will access it regularly, forward your SOCC address to your personal e-mail address (e.g., Yahoo or Hotmail). Go to www.socc.edu and click on **Current Students** for log in and forwarding directions.
- Come to New Student Orientation (the week before fall term classes begin).
- Use the SOCC Student Handbook to keep track of important dates and find valuable information.

During the first week of the term:

- If you cannot attend the first day of a class, be sure to contact the instructor to let him or her know the situation; if you don't, you might be dropped from the class.
- Finalize your schedule; the sooner in the first week that you have finished adding and dropping, the sooner you can focus on the course content.
- Learn all of your instructors' names.
- Review the syllabus for each class and enter important dates on your calendar.
- Try to exchange contact information with at least one other student in each class in case you miss class.

Middle of the term:

- Check your grade status in each course (use the syllabus and your returned coursework).
- Talk to your instructors if you are concerned about your progress or if you have received a letter from the college indicating that you are in academic jeopardy in one or more of your classes.
- Use your online account in WebAdvisor to locate the name and contact information for your assigned advisor.
- Set up an advising appointment for next term.

End of the term:

- Check your finals schedule (it's different than the time you meet for class) and enter the dates on your calendar. Find the finals schedule on the SOCC web site under the Academic Calendar, or look in the Student Handbook.
- Plan your work load for the end of the term, balancing final projects, papers and tests.
- Get enough sleep!
- After finals, review your schedule for next term and make any necessary adjustments.