

# Study Smarter:

## *Working smarter to achieve academic success!*

Have you ever heard the phrase, “Study smarter, not harder”? If you are familiar with this, you may know that the key to success in studying involves developing skills and habits that will help you truly study smarter. You can begin the process of learning how to study smarter by reviewing and using the following information.

### **Studying Smarter Tactics**

#### **1. Learn the 1:2 rule**

Did you know that for every hour you spend in class, you should spend two hours outside of class reading, studying, completing course assignments, etc.? Consider the following, if you are taking the courses listed in the chart below, you should spend almost 40 hours per week either in class or outside of class (reading, studying, etc.).

<b>Course</b>	<b>Number of Credits Hours</b>	<b>Study Time (1:2)</b>	<b>Total hours per week spent on the course</b>
COL 101	1	2	3
ENG 101	3	6	9
THE 100	3	6	9
HIS 102	3	6	9
BIO 120	3	6	9
	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>Hours Studying</b>	<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>
	13	26	39

(Based on “Study Time Needed for Coursework” in Steve Piscitelli’s *Study skills: Do I really need this stuff?* (2004).)

Now, make a list of your classes and the number of credit hours. Using the 1:2 rule, you can determine how many hours you should be spending in and out of class per week.

#### **2. Make plans**

Once you have mastered the 1:2 rule, and are ready to commit the time outside of class necessary to achieve academic success, you will need to grab your WLC planner and schedule times to study! Begin by writing the days and times you have classes, work, and other fixed obligations. After identifying these items, you will be able to begin to see where you have time to study.

#### **3. Study with the proper tools**

Students who study smarter are always organized and prepared. As you are reading your textbook, or reviewing class notes, be sure to have all of the tools necessary for studying: e.g., textbook, notebook (class notes, handouts, etc.), pen, pencil, and highlighter.

#### **4. Get active**

As you study, you should get active with your material. Use your studying tools to mark your textbook and class notes, and consider making flash cards to remember important dates, definitions, and concepts.

Source: USCA Academic Success Center 2007  
Revised WLC Academic Success Center NLT 2009