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Study Smarter, Not Harder

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Welcome Letter from SGA President Chris Ring

As President of the Student Government Association, I'd like to welcome you to Butler University! Butler University is full of students who are passionate and hardworking, and, as a result, involvement is very important. In fact, 93 percent of students are engaged in a co-curricular activity on campus.

Research suggests that involved students earn better grades and are, overall, more satisfied with their academic experience. In addition to this, being involved allows students an opportunity to make a positive impact on both Butler University and the Indianapolis community. Over 150 student organizations exist on campus to fulfill one important goal: to enhance the Butler community.

As a first-year student, I sought to become involved with student government, and it has become a strong part of my identity on campus. Being a member of this organization gave me the confidence and feeling of camaraderie that I needed to truly embrace my academic and social experience at Butler. From my personal experience, I cannot begin to express how endlessly beneficial being an involved member of Butler University can be.

The Student Government Association, the governing body for all student organizations, is a great reference for students interested in getting more involved. Student Government offers leadership positions for first year students within its five executive boards. I encourage you to visit the Student Government Association website at www.butler.edu/sga for more information.

It is my sincere hope that each of you embraces the opportunity to become an active member of the Butler community!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me via email at cring@butler.edu at any time. Welcome to Butler! I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can!

Christopher Ring
Student Government Association President
or the Science Library’s service desk.

www.butler.edu/library

Netbooks, and digital cameras for check-out; wireless network access; and laser printing. Libraries provide computer labs; rooms and spaces for individual and group study; laptop, education books, journals, and children’s and young adult literature collections. The Ruth Rare Books and University Archives room. In addition, Irwin’s Education Commons houses arts, communication, performing arts, and fine arts resources as well as the Special Collections.

Butler Libraries consists of two campus libraries. Irwin Library includes business, liberal arts, education, humanities, social sciences, and other academic subjects. Butler Libraries provide computer labs, rooms and spaces for individual and group study, laptop, netbooks, and digital cameras for check-out; wireless network access; and laser printing. For additional information about resources and services, as well as library hours, visit www.butler.edu/library or stop in and visit the Irwin’s Information Commons desk or the Science Library’s service desk.

1. Pay Attention: When studying, focus only on studying, minimizing distractions (extraneous noises, telephone calls and texts, email, crowds). You will get your studying and your socializing done much more efficiently if you set aside separate times to tackle each.
2. Skim, Listen, Read, Repeat (SLRR): Skim the assigned readings prior to the class when they will be discussed, listen to the lecture, reread the assignment carefully paying special attention to the sections covered in class, and repeat as necessary. You will get more from class if you have skimmed the assignment prior to the lecture, and you will get more from the reading if you return to it after the professor has explained key concepts.
3. Don’t Rote Memorize: Try to make sense of the information you are learning. Relate it to everyday life and to personal experiences. Make sure you understand what you are learning and how it all fits together. If you don’t understand it, ask your professor to explain it again during class or during office hours.
4. Study A Little A Lot: Study every subject several times a week. Review your notes the evening after each class or the next day rather than waiting until just before a quiz or examination to review what you have learned. Studying for an exam will take much less time if you have reviewed your notes several times in the interim than if you wait and cram. You may want to create a study schedule that sets aside specific times during the week for reviewing your notes from each class.
5. Quiz Yourself: When reviewing your notes, don’t just reread them. Be sure to quiz yourself. Flashcards are one method of achieving this, but you can also simply look away from your notes and practice recalling the information on your own. Explain key concepts to your roommate or parents. If you can’t do it, you are not yet ready for the exam. Keep quizzing and explaining until you are sure you can recall the information without relying on your book or notes.
6. If At First You Don’t Succeed, Try Something Else: If you are not doing as well in a class as you would like, get help. Consult with the professor, use the Learning Resource Center, utilize tutoring that is available, and find other students who are having greater success and ask them for tips. If you keep approaching the class in the same way, you will likely get the same result. Find another approach.
7. It Is Never Too Early: Semesters go fast. Do not fall behind. Keep up with the readings and the written assignments, and, if you are not able to, re-practice your time. Once you fall behind, your work in all of your classes will start to suffer.
8. Take Care of Yourself: Sleep. Eat. Have fun. Taking care of yourself physically, mentally and emotionally is even more essential to your success in college as studying is.

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By Dr. Tara Lineweaver and Dr. Mandy Gingerich

Earn a Little Money While You’re in College!

The Benefits of an On-Campus Job
A Conversation with Chaise Carter

Butler’s Libraries

University Library Directory

Irwin Library Check-out Desk: (317) 940-9227
Irwin Library Information Commons: (317) 940-9235; text (317) 758-3531
Ruth Lilly Science Library (Holcomb 210): (317) 940-9401; text 265010
(on the body of the text type “ButlerScienceLib yourusername”

On campus: dial last 4 digits only

Fall Alternative Break

While some students choose to go home or hang around campus over fall break, a group of Butler students and staff spend their break helping others. For the past thirteen years, Fall Alternative Break (FAB) has sponsored a service learning trip for students to reach out to a community and volunteer.

To read about the FAB destination for this year and/or to get involved in this fun volunteer experience, go to www.butler.edu/volunteer/student/fall-alternative-break.

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