Student Success/First-Year Experience Course with Career and Academic/Research Focus (3 credits)

**Welcome to First-Year Seminar/Student Success!**



**Insert Course Code**

**Insert Meeting Dates and Times**

**Insert Professor Contact Information:**

**Professor Name**

**Email Address**

**Office Location**

**Office Hours**

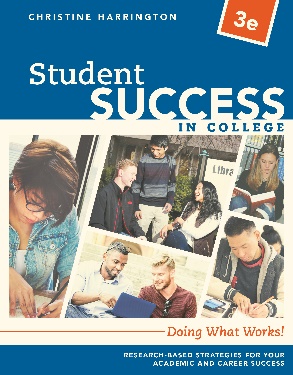
**What is this course all about?**

**Please come and visit me!**

Customize this welcome section (consider adding your photo)

Welcome to the course! I am excited to be your instructor and can’t wait to get to know you. Throughout the semester, we will be talking about your goals and career plans and strategies that will help you be successful. I hope that you will be view me as part of your support team. In addition to teaching you research-based success strategies, I am here to help you plan for success, problem-solve as needed, and celebrate successful experiences. My official office hours are listed above, but I’m more than happy to find a different day and time to meet if these do not work well for your schedule. I believe that it’s really important for us to talk outside of class so please connect with me before or after class, stop by my office (or make an appointment), and e-mail me!

**What book and other materials do I need?**

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**Texts***: MINDTAP: Student Success in College: Doing What Works! 3rd edition,*

*Cengage Learning*

**Articles and Websites:** Several additional resources will be used. These will be posted in the Learning Management System.

**What is this course all about?**

**Course Description:** (Replace with Course Description at your College)

This course is designed to help you explore career options, set meaningful academic and career goals, develop essential skills such as information literacy and critical thinking skills, and engage in academic behaviors and study strategies that will help you meet with success.

**Learning Outcomes: What you will be able to do after successfully completing this course**  (Replace below with your Course Learning Outcomes and Content)

You will develop a higher sense of self-efficacy by:

1. Identifying and utilizing strategies and resources that promote academic success, personal growth, and resilience.
2. Demonstrating critical thinking, information literacy, and technological skills.
3. Practicing interpersonal and leadership skills essential in a diverse, global society.
4. Reflecting on values, goals, decisions, and actions in relation to their impact on self and others.
5. Creating academic, career and financial plans.

**Course Content Areas: The topics we’ll be discussing**

* Purpose, value, and structure of higher education
* Goal setting, career exploration, and choosing a career path
* Decision making, critical thinking and information literacy
* Academic/Study strategies including how to read and use scholarly research
* Soft skills such as time and project management, interpersonal skills and leadership
* Academic, career, and financial planning
* Grit, resilience, and motivation
* Self-reflection and monitoring progress

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**What can I expect to happen during class?**

Being actively involved and engaged with the course content will result in higher levels of learning and skill development. The semester will therefore be filled with lively discussions, activities, and challenging assignments. Because we learn best when engaged with others, you will work with a partner or small group almost every time we meet.

**Important Policy Information** *(*Customize)

*If you need accommodations due to a disability, please reach out to a Disability Service Provider.*

*To foster a productive learning environment, the College requires that all students adhere to the Code of Student Conduct which is published in the college catalog and on the college’s website.*

**Academic Integrity Policy:**

**All Students are Expected to Engage in Academically Honest Work**

Academic integrity benefits everyone in our community. It not only helps you reach the real goal of this class- learning, but also allows for the college and program to be perceived positively by others. When students are dishonest, they lose out on valuable learning that will help them perform well in their career. It can also negatively impact all of the students in the program and at the institution by creating negative mindsets which may result in fewer outside learning opportunities for students. Academic dishonesty is any attempt by a student to gain academic advantage through dishonest means or to assist another student with gaining an unfair advantage. Academic integrity is important regardless of whether the work is graded or ungraded, group or individual, written or oral. Dishonest acts can result in a failing grade on an assignment, a failing course grade and/or an official code of conduct charge being filed.

**Late Work/Missed Exam Policy:**

**All Students are Expected to Complete Learning Tasks on Schedule**

It is important to stay on track with your assignments- not only will this help you feel less stressed but it is also an important skill you will need in your career. Being able to meet deadlines and juggle many tasks is an important career and life skill. Thus, it is expected that you will complete all assignments according to the schedule. This is particularly important when working as a part of a team as others will be counting on you. If you have a personal situation that prevents you from doing so, please discuss this with me prior to the due date so we can explore options. Assignments can be submitted via MindTap **PRIOR to a class** if you will be absent.

**Registrar Withdrawal Information**

Students sometimes have a need to withdraw from a class due to personal or academic reasons. [Click here for deadline dates.](http://www2.middlesexcc.edu/services-and-support/registrar/fall-2014.html) If you do encounter difficulties, please contact me prior to withdrawing.

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**Available Help and Support:** *(*Customize)

Successful people access support from others as needed. The college has many support services that can help you achieve your goals. I encourage you to reach out to me or other professionals on campus as needed. Here’s some information about the resources available to you:

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| Your Professor |  |
| Librarians |  |
| Tutors |  |
| Advisors or Mentors |  |
| Personal and Career Counselors |  |
| Disability Service Provider |  |
| Resident Advisor |  |

**Your Learning Experience: What do you have to do in this course?**

**TRADITIONAL SEQUENTIAL APPROACH: Course Outline**

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| **Class Date** | **What is Due?** | **Topic, Activities, and Relevant Resources** |
| Week 1 |  | **Welcome and Introduction**  **Getting Started and Discovering the Value of Education**   * Introduction: Getting Started * Chapter 1: Value of a College Education * Exploring the Research in Depth (Howard & Jones, 2000) |
| Week 2 | MindTap Quiz: Chapter 1 | **Sharpening Key Thinking Skills**   * Chapter 1: Decision Making, Information Literacy, Critical Thinking * Exploring the Research in Depth (Travis, 2011) |
| Week 3 | MindTap: CRAAP Website Evaluation (Chapter 1) | **Setting Goals and Choosing a Career Path**   * Chapter 2: Setting Goals, Career Exploration and Decision-Making |
| Week 4 | MindTap Quiz Chapter 2  MindTap: MindTap Career Exploration Self-Assessment (Chapter 2) | **Setting Goals and Choosing a Career Path continued**   * Chapter 2: Setting Goals, Career Exploration and Decision-Making * View Candid Career Videos and Complete Research-Based Assessments in MindTap |
| Week 5 | MindTap: Career Information Worksheet (Chapter 2) | **Building Academic Skills**   * Chapter 3: How Memory Works, Reading and Note-taking Strategies |
| Week 6 | MindTap Quiz: Chapter 3 | **Building Academic Skills**   * Chapter 3: Study Skills |
| Week 7 | MindTap: Exploring the Research in Summary Worksheet (Chapter 1) | **Strengthening Soft Skills**   * Chapter 4: Defining Soft Skills, Professionalism, Time and Project Management * Exploring the Research in Depth (Deepa & Seth, 2013) |
| Week 8 | MindTap Quiz: Chapter 4 | **Strengthening Soft Skills**   * Chapter 4: Interpersonal Skills, Leadership |
| Week 9 | **Research Paper** | **Demonstrating Knowledge and Skills**   * Chapter 5: Purpose of academic tasks, Academic Integrity, Papers |
| Week 10 | MindTap Quiz: Chapter 5  MindTap: PowerPoint Presentation (Chapter 5) | **Demonstrating Knowledge and Skills**   * Chapter 5: Presentations, Test-Taking * Exploring the Research in Depth (Oliver & Kowalczyk, 2013) |
| Week 11 | MindTap:  Academic Plan (Chapter 6)  MindTap: Financing Your Education (Chapter 6) | **Mapping Your Path to Success: Plans and Action Steps**   * Chapter 6: Creating and Academic Plan, Financial Planning * Exploring the Research in Depth (Coulter-Kern et al., 2013) |
| Week 12 | MindTap Quiz: Chapter 6  MindTap: Networking Action Plan (Chapter 6) | **Mapping Your Path to Success: Plans and Action Steps**   * Chapter 6: Career Planning- Discovering the Power of Networking |
| Week 13 | MindTap Quiz: Chapter 7  **Academic and Career Project** | **Staying on Track and Celebrating Success**   * Chapter 7: Staying Motivated, Managing Stress, Being Resilient and Developing Grit |
| Week 14 | **Presentation** | **Presentations on Student Success Research** |
| Week 15 | MindTap: Outcome Feedback Exercise (Chapter 7)  MindTap: Monitoring Your Progress (Chapter 7) | **Staying on Track and Celebrating Success**   * Chapter 7: Reflecting on Progress, Celebrating Success * Exploring the Research in Depth (Fritson, 2008) |

**BACKWARDS DESIGN APPROACH: Course Outline**

**This approach begins by determining major and supportive assignments and then building a course schedule to assist students with successfully completing these assignments. You’ll notice that the text will be used as a resource but coverage of content will likely not be sequential. Because MindTap allows you to customize the order without using “chapter” language, this can look streamlined in MindTap.**

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| **Class Date** | **What is Due?** | **Topic, Activities, and Relevant Resources** |
| Week 1 |  | **Welcome and Introduction**  **Purpose and Structure of Higher Education**   * Chapter 1: Value of a College Education * Exploring the Research in Depth (Howard & Jones, 2000) |
| Week 2 | MindTap Quiz: Chapter 2 | **Goal Setting**   * Chapter 2 Setting Goals |
| Week 3 | MindTap: MindTap Career Exploration Self-Assessment (Chapter 2) | **Career Exploration**   * Chapter 2: Career Exploration and Decision-Making * View Candid Career Videos and Complete Research-Based Assessments in MindTap |
| Week 4 | MindTap: Career Information Worksheet (Chapter 2) | **Networking**   * Chapter 6: Career Planning-Discovering the Power of Networking |
| Week 5 | MindTap Quiz: Chapter 6  MindTap: Networking Action Plan (Chapter 6) | **Academic Planning and Skills**   * Chapter 6: Creating an Academic Plan * Chapter 3: Building Academic Skills * Exploring the Research in Depth (Coulter-Kern et al., 2013) |
| Week 6 | MindTap: Academic Plan and Financing Your Education (Chapter 6) | **Decision Making, Critical Thinking, and Financial Planning**   * Chapter 1: Decision-Making, Critical Thinking * Chapter 6: Financial Planning |
| Week 7 | **Academic and Career Project** | **Academic and Career Planning and Reflection** |
| Week 8 | MindTap Quizzes: Chapter 1 and 4 | **Time and Project Management**   * Chapter 4: What are soft skills? Professionalism, and Time and Project Management * Exploring the Research in Depth (Deepa & Seth, 2013) |
| Week 9 | MindTap: CRAAP Website Evaluation (Chapter 1) and Exploring the Research in Summary Worksheet (Chapter 1) | **Information Literacy and Building**   * Chapter 1: Information Literacy * Exploring the Research in Depth (Travis, 2011) |
| Week 10 | MindTap Quizzes: Chapters 3 and 5 | **Demonstrating Academic Skills**   * Chapter 3: Active Reading Strategies, Note-Taking * Chapter 5: Academic Integrity, Papers and Presentations |
| Week 11 | **Research Paper** | **Staying Motivated, Grit, and Resilience**   * Chapter 7: Staying on Track and Celebrating Success |
| Week 12 | MindTap Quiz: Chapter 7 | **Using Feedback to Improve Learning**   * Chapter 7: Reflecting on Progress |
| Week 13 | MindTap: PowerPoint Presentation (Chapter5) | **Interpersonal and Presentation Skills**   * Chapter 4: Time and Project Management, Interpersonal Skills, Leadership * Chapter 5: Papers and Presentations * Exploring the Research in Depth (Oliver & Kowalczyk, 2013) |
| Week 14 | **Presentation** | **Presentations on Student Success Research** |
| Week 15 | MindTap: Outcome Feedback and Monitoring Your Progress (Chapter 7) | **Reflection and Action Plans**   * Chapter 7: Reflecting on Progress, Celebrating Success * Exploring the Research in Depth (Fritson, 2008) |

**Grading Information**

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| --- | --- |
| **Final Letter Grade** | **Percentage at End of Semester** |
| A | 93-100 |
| A- | 90-92 |
| B+ | 87-89 |
| B | 83-86 |
| B- | 80-82 |
| C+ | 77-79 |
| C | 70-76 |
| D | 65-69 |
| F | 0-64 |

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| --- | --- |
| **Major Assignments** | **MindTap Assignments Linked to Major Assignments** |
| Academic/Career Project (30%) | MindTap Quizzes   * Chapters 2,4, 6 and 7   MindTap Assignments   * Chapter 2 Career Exploration Self-Assessment * Chapter 2 Career Information Worksheet * Chapter 6: Networking Action Plan * Chapter 6: Academic Plan * Chapter 6: Financing Your Education * Chapter 7: Monitoring Your Progress |
| Research Paper and Presentation (30%; 15% each) | MindTap Quizzes   * Chapters 1, 3, 4, and 5   MindTap Assignments   * Chapter 1 CRAAP Website Evaluation * Chapter 1 Exploring the Research in Summary Worksheet * Chapter 5 PowerPoint Presentation * Chapter 7 Outcome Feedback Exercise |

**Assignment Details:**

**MindTap Quizzes**

Successful students are engaged both in and out of the classroom. Because testing helps you learn, you will take an online quiz (in MindTap) on each chapter.

**Academic and Career Project (MindTap Assignments in bold)**

Choosing a career path is a big decision that takes much time and effort. Engaging in the career exploration process will help you make a good decision. Even if you have already decided on a career path, this assignment will help you learn more about the various options that exist within the career of interest and will help you develop a plan of action. The final project will be an 8-10-page paper (2-3 pages for each section below):

* Self-Assessment: Knowing about yourself is an important part of the career exploration process. After taking self-assessments in class and in MindTap, write a summary paper **(Chapter 2 MindTap Assignment: Career Exploration Self-Assessment).**
* Career Information: Gather information from a variety of sources such as websites, informational interviews, and social media on at least 3 career paths. Complete the **MindTap Assignment- Chapter 2 Career Information Worksheets** on each career and will write a personal reflection summary, addressing how the career paths are or are not aligned to your values and interests. You’ll want to find out the following information on each career:
* Job description and job tasks
* Job outlook and salary
* Work environment and opportunities for advancement
* Education and other requirements
* Factors that contribute to success in this field
* Informational interview data or information gathered via social media
  + Citation/source
* Career Networking Actions and Reflection**:** One of the most important skills to develop when it comes to careers is networking and it is never too soon to start networking. Complete **MindTap Assignment- Chapter 6 Networking Action Plan** and then engage in at least 3 networking behaviors such as meeting with a professional in the field or attending a professional meeting and then write a summary of your experiences as well as a plan to continue developing your networking skills.
* Educational and Financial Plan: Choose one of the career paths and meet with an advisor to develop an educational and financial plan. The written plan should include:
  + Statement about why the selected major works with your chosen career pathway.
  + An Educational Map of courses you need to take and when you plan to take these courses. Indicate how each course counts (general education, major, elective). **Complete MindTap Assignment- Chapter 6 Academic Plan.**
  + Transition plan. If you are planning to transfer or go to graduate school, identify one or two colleges or universities. If you plan to go directly into the workforce, identify one or two entry-level jobs in the field of interest. Describe why these college/universities or jobs will help you achieve your goal, noting how courses will transfer or prepare you for success in graduate school.
  + Financial plan. Determine cost of your education and the expected return on investment. Explain how you plan to pay for college. If you are planning to take out a loan, identify a repayment plan. **Complete MindTap Assignment- Chapter 6 Financing Your Education.**
  + **Complete MindTap Assignment Chapter 7- Monitoring Your Progress.**

**Research Paper and Presentation Assignment (15% Paper; 15% Presentation)**

There are 2 parts of the project: a 3-page paper and a 10-15-minute group presentation. The same topic will be used for the paper and presentation. All members of your group will need to agree on a topic and get the topic approved by me. The purpose of this assignment is to help you build skills such as collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and information literacy skills that will serve you well in college and in your career.

Paper:

For this assignment, you will work with your group members to choose a student success topic you’d like to research.

1. Once the topic is approved by me, you will work ***independently*** to identify at least 4 sources of information (at least 2 websites and 2 peer-reviewed journal articles). It is recommended that you get feedback from me on the sources you select before completing the assignment.
2. Complete **MindTap Assignments Chapter 1- CRAAP Website Evaluation for each website and Exploring the Research in Summary Worksheets for each peer-reviewed research article**.
3. After receiving feedback on these MindTap assignments, you will then write a 3-page paper summarizing the research you have reviewed and discussing the value and application of the research. Organize the paper by themes that emerged and then provide details on the research related to each theme. The following information on each study should be included:
   * why the topic is important
   * purpose of the study
   * how the study was conducted (who participated and what did they have to do)
   * the main findings or results of the study
   * application of these findings (why college students should care and how they can put research into action)
4. Complete **MindTap Assignment Chapter 7 Outcome Feedback** on the paper.

Presentation:

After you receive feedback on the paper, you will work with your group to develop a 10-15-minute presentation on the studies selected. The primary benefits of having the paper and presentation linked is that you can use feedback from the paper to develop a strong presentation and every group member will have much to contribute as each member reviewed different resources and research.

1. The first step is share and review all of the resources/research identified by group members. Spend time here making sure everyone has access to the resources and understands the major points and findings. During this conversation, you can decide what information/research will be shared via the presentation.
2. Next, each member needs to ***independently*** create visually effective and informative slides that summarize the information and research on the topic. For the research studies (there must be at least 2), be sure to highlight how the study was conducted and the main findings.
3. You will then exchange PowerPoint presentations and revise a group member’s presentation- completing the **MindTap Chapter 5 Power Point Presentation assignment**. Mayer’s multi-media principles will be used to improve initial versions.
4. After receiving feedback on this assignment, you will then all get together and create one master slide presentation, using the best components of previously designed slides or developing new ones as needed.
5. You will then shift your attention to the best way to deliver the content, using strategies to highlight important points during the presentation. Be sure to review and incorporate effective presentation strategies discussed in the text.
6. Next, practice, practice, practice! All group members need to be able to present the entire presentation. View this as an independent project with a support team. *Note that you will be randomly assigned a part of the presentation to present on the day of the presentation.*
7. Finally, complete **MindTap Assignment Chapter 7 Outcome Feedback** on the presentation.