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Two Rules for College Success

Sadly, just over half the students who attend college graduate within six years.

A lot of time and energy have been given to trying to discover what leads to success in college. And, as you might guess, research has uncovered a direct correlation between the rigor of students' high school curricula and their subsequent academic success in college.

High school grades and class rank are also pretty good predictors of college success.

And, most educators agree that students from families that appreciate the value of higher education are more likely to do well in college than students from families less convinced of the advantages of a college degree.

The important question is, what can a student do to maximize his/her chances for success in college? There are two very important rules.

First, students should not overburden themselves academically. For most freshmen, carrying more than fifteen credits a semester is a big mistake. Many, in fact, would be smart to carry no more than twelve hours during their initial semester, as they adjust to the demands of college.

Of course, the difficulty of the courses a student chooses is as important as the number of credit hours he or she attempts. Try not to take more than two courses a semester in areas in which you generally struggle.

After academic overload, the most common reason students leave college without a degree is that they work more hours than they should. Some very good research has shown that students who are employed for more than twenty hours a week are four times as likely as others to drop out of college at some point.

There are, of course, many reasons students leave college without achieving their goals. Poor communications skills, lack of motivation, immaturity, inadequate time management skills, and poor study habits are just a few.

But, taking on too much...carrying an academic load that is too heavy or working more than twenty hours a week while a full time student, put more students at risk than anything else. Your best insurance against falling short of your academic goals is to be certain you choose your courses realistically and that you leave yourself enough time to keep up with your academic assignments.

Daniel Z. Kane writes about numerous topics, including [online degrees](#), careers, health, [scholarships](#), hobbies, and contemporary lifestyle issues.

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