

Profile of a Successful C.C Student

Motivated. By this point in one's life, motivation should be intrinsic. No longer is a student doing well in school because extra money for "A's" or a driver's license restriction looms at the end of the grading period. Students must have their own internal rewards for pursuing higher education. The love of learning, the desire to be formally educated and improve oneself, and/or the understanding of the practical value of a college degree in attaining a rewarding career are but some of the possible motivational possibilities.

Persevering. As Stephen Covey states in *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, one must "begin with the end in mind" and essentially keep that vision front and center in pursuing a goal. In the course of the College Connection year (and college in general), students can become discouraged or feel moments of lethargy. This is not unusual; however, the ability to "finish what you start," not quitting, and following through with your commitments to yourself and others are the character-forming traits that help students reach their goals.

Self-disciplined. College is a reasonably mature environment. No one has to be at college; consequently, students tend to do their work regularly without parents or teachers looking over their shoulders. Students must be willing to give up the immediate gratification -- a party, a TV program, or a trip to the mountains -- for the returns of long-range success. This is not to say that students shouldn't have fun. They should! However, students learn to manage their time in such a way that allows for both.

Hard Working. At this level there is no substitute for hard work. The "A" that might have come easily in high school, could take much more effort here. In college there will be times when a student is expected to put in two or three hours of out-of-class preparation for every one hour in class if the student wants to do "A/B" work. For example, if a student takes 10 units or hours of college work, he or she might need to put in 20 hours of study. Add to this the 10-20 hours of high school course work (a total of 30-40 hours), and one can see there will be some demanding weeks. Don't be scared off by this. In high school, if a student took six classes (30 hours) and did two hours of homework per night, the student would have done 40 hours of work in that week. If students are planning to go to college and are not doing this much work by senior year, they might want to question their preparation and readiness.

Stable. It's normal for teens to want more freedom and fewer rules at home. However, if relations have reached such a point at home that a student is thinking of leaving prior to graduation, he or she might want to think twice. Supporting oneself is a very demanding, all-encompassing proposition, one that moves the goal from excelling in school to survival. Minimum wage does not go very far. In all the years College Connection has existed, it's been rare to have a student leave home and be successful in the program.

Positive. Attitude, Attitude, Attitude. There is no substitute for a positive attitude. We may not be able to control everything that happens to us, but we do have significant control over how we respond. Every day we make choices as to how we will react to people and events. For example, every morning when we look in the mirror, we can choose to be in a good mood or a bad. Each time something bad happens, we can choose to be a victim or to learn from it. It's critically important to focus on the positive side of life. It can often be the difference in succeeding in school and/or life.