



BEGINNINGS AND EXPECTATIONS

Welcome! The beginning of the academic year can be both exciting and intimidating.

Students set goals as to what they want to accomplish during the year. Some believe that they must achieve perfection and only earn grades of A or A+. Of course, setting high expectations is important and successfully delivering on those expectations can be very satisfying. However, setting unrealistic expectations may result in disappointment and negative outcomes. Everyone makes mistakes and being able to accurately assess one's performance and make the necessary corrections is part of the learning process. You need to know your individual strengths and weaknesses and plan accordingly. Therefore, it's important to set realistic goals and expectations from the beginning that will help guide you on your path to success.

First, write a plan of action. What does it take to achieve success? Too often students expect their instructor to provide an entertaining lecture or classroom experience. Simply sitting back and waiting for the instructor removes the responsibility of learning from the student; the student is passive not active in the classroom. You must take ownership of the learning experience by not only attending class, but by being prepared and ready to contribute. Instructors may assign reading materials or other work as preparation for the lesson. Follow through!

The amount of time and effort each student commits will vary. One student may need to visit the Math & Writing Center to review math concepts one-on-one with a math consultant. Another student may need to meet with their classmate to exchange notes to ensure they've recorded and understood what they read and heard. Then, there may be students who have done practice problems or have read the materials. If there are questions, the student is responsible to address these questions or concerns in class or during the instructor's office hours or a problem solving session.

Remember: Learning is a process. These suggestions are only a few ways to begin to think about how to make the right decisions and be successful academically. Please be sure to identify and utilize the available university-wide resources and support services to help you during your career at AUA. Write your plan, set realistic goals and always, ask! questions.

Center for
Student Success



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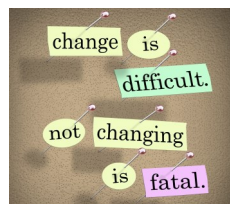
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COUNSELING SERVICES: TIME FOR CHANGE

What do we need to do to make a difference in our lives? Our lives are built around different events: birth, family life, kindergarten, school, college life and etc. Each of these contribute to our understanding of who we are, where we are heading and our most ambitious goals. Yet, college life, is the time for victories and losses, challenges and solutions, friendship and isolation. But you are the one who designs your own path by being proactive and asking the right questions. At some point we have all faced and



will continue to face challenges: it is a time for each of us to test our resources to the fullest: persistence, faith and values. Challenges are opportunities to advance or excuses to destroy ourselves. Your mind is the best instrument for your success and you are here to learn to make your life and the lives of those around you better. Do the best you can, wherever you are, with whatever you have, starting now. You can learn more about Counseling Services by visiting <http://studentsuccess.aua.am/counseling-services/>.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES



Gabriel Hovhannisyán, a fourth year BAB student is the co-founder of the undergraduate student club "Volunteers League". In July 2015, Gabriel participated in an international program, in Portugal, entitled, "Open Up to See", aiming at developing young people's competences and knowledge in the areas of self-awareness and entrepreneurship. It was at this program where Gabriel first thought of establishing a volunteering club at AUA. Since its establishment to the end of the Spring 2016 semester, club members volunteered for 13 events both inside and outside of AUA, such as the EVS Forum, Medical Conference with Armenian Association of Young Doctors (AAYD), Concert of Armenian Little Singers, and the Hartak Festival. Gabriel says, "Our club is trying to find opportunities and activities to help volunteers develop their skills, be competitive and also help the other party to gain from that experience". The club also contributed in the organization of the 25th anniversary events at AUA. "It's really nice that people at AUA know about us and whenever there is an event approaching, they contact us requesting volunteers." One of the challenges for the club is its large membership, but what ensures the club's success is that "Everyone is working in a team and is responsible for the team", as Gabriel states. Gabriel hopes that upon graduating from AUA, they will find an opportunity to start a volunteering NGO and cooperate with the undergraduate student club "Volunteer's League" to spread this volunteer culture throughout Armenia. For further information, on this and other clubs, visit: <http://studentsuccess.aua.am/undergraduate-student-clubs-information/>.

RETURNING FROM THE MILITARY

Davit Muradyán completed his first year of the undergraduate computer science program in 2013-2014. He was summoned to serve in the army and placed in Martuni, Nagorno Karabakh. Like all new conscripts, Davit began with training for the first six months, and then transitioned to the normal routine of early wake up, exercise, lessons, and military training. He is grateful he was able to often keep in touch with his family. While only a few months remained of Davit's service, in April 2016 he learned the meaning of war "We had just returned from the frontline for our two week break. We had spent only one night, when early in the morning the alarm sounded. We didn't know [what to expect]...It is on the border that I realized that this time it was war...serious war...a few days later, volunteer soldiers began arriving from all over." Davit described how his view on life changed within these two years, in several different areas: responsibility, family values, friendships. "Only after serving in war, especially during a war, do you begin to appreciate the smallest gifts you have in your life." Davit sees a bright future for himself here in Armenia. Although emphasizing that many student conscripts change their mind during the military service and abandon their studies, Davit is determined to resume studying at AUA. He is aware of the difficulties he will be facing: "I did not have the opportunity to work on maintaining my English skills" ... and I feel I have forgotten everything I have learned during my first year." After graduating from AUA, Davit looks forward to finding employment doing what he loves most: programming and breakdancing. "I know there is no paid job for this but I really enjoy spending time breakdancing." When asked to share a message with his peers, Davit wished the following, "I wish those serving in the army "baree tzarayootyoon" (uneventful service); to always be careful and return home safely."





STUDENT SUCCESS



"You'll reach your goal if you don't give up on your dreams." Mariam Gyulumyan, second year business student is a highly self-motivated student who feels no dream is insignificant. Prior to being admitted to AUA, she dreamt of singing on stage which she accomplished during her first year at a musical concert organized by several undergraduate student clubs. She is involved in many student clubs and activities because she says, they give her an opportunity "for self-development and to specialize my skills". Mariam especially loves staying active and volunteering; she is involved in the Volunteers League, Star Jam, Korean Club, and also serves as a Peer Mentor and Student Ambassador. Outside of AUA, Mariam also finds time to volunteer; she recently returned from HUI's Volunteer program. Here, Mariam helped build a fence, redirect a river, and clean nature in Rascafría, a small village located north of Madrid. After two intensive weeks of physical labor and fun, Mariam is excited to return to AUA. After graduating, Mariam aspires to study abroad for her master's in business and plans to bring back knowledge and experience to enhance Armenia's economy.

TIME FOR WRITING

Writing well: your key to academic success

Writing is the art of conveying ideas and thoughts. The more you master this art, the more successful you will become in your academic life. Whether you pursue your degree in business, communication, computer science, law, or public health, writing skills are essential for communicating in a well-organized, logical and compelling manner. By improving your writing, you also become an attentive reader. You can identify context clues and read between the lines, thus being able to analyze and

synthesize texts skillfully. When it is exam time, strong writing skills help you excel in tests as you produce content that is written concisely and coherently. The craft of writing is not learned overnight, though. Practice, persistence and guidance are necessary. We know this perfectly well at the Math and Writing Center and invite you to learn more about our services and schedule an appointment by visiting our website at <http://studentsuccess.aua.am/math-and-writing-center/>



PEER MENTORING BEGINS



Four hundred new undergraduate students will join the AUA Family this Fall 2016! We are happy to have 40 bright, energetic leaders who will serve as their peer mentors. Each mentor is assigned up to ten students from the same program that they are currently studying. Peer mentorship is designed to help new students acclimate to AUA. For the first six weeks of the program, mentors will host 50 minute sessions once a week to address topics such as how to be a professional AUA student and about university resources. Peer Mentors are also responsible for taking their groups to university events such as public lectures or those sponsored by student clubs. This initiative aims to ensure that all freshmen are equipped with a support group that will help place them on a path to be successful for their whole academic career at AUA!

Calendar of Upcoming Workshops

#1	Study Tips	Wednesday, September 7th, 3:00-4:00pm	Center for Student Success Lounge, Presented by Nazeny Hovakimian
#2	Organizing your essay	Friday, September 9th, 3:00-4:30pm	Center for Student Success Lounge, Presented by Anna Aghlamazyan
#3	Note taking skills	Monday, September 12th, 2:30-4:00pm	Center for Student Success Lounge, Presented by Arthur Khalatyan
#4	Public Speaking Session I	Thursday, September 15th, 4:30-6:00pm	Large Auditorium, MB Presented by Hilda Grigoryan
#5	Introduction to Counseling Services	Thursday, September 22nd, 3:00-4:30pm	Center for Student Success Lounge, Presented by Yelena Sardaryan
#6	Communication for Success	Tuesday, September 27th, 4:00-5:30pm	Center for Student Success Lounge, Presented by Mimi Zarookian



AUA proudly marks its 25th Anniversary in 2016. To celebrate this milestone, join us for a series of special programs, events, activities, lectures, conferences, and exhibitions. Stay tuned for more information on Anniversary events by checking here: <http://25th.aua.am>

Mission Statement

The Center for Student Success is a learning environment that extends outside of the classroom and aims to promote student achievement of academic goals while enrolled at AUA. Through a holistic approach to education, the Center provides a unique range of support programs including math and writing consultations, academic support services, disabilities services and workshops to enhance overall personal and academic development in a welcoming space. The Center encourages AUA students to challenge and support one another, to accept responsibility and to collaborate in serving

Center for Student Success

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