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Midterm is over— now what?

By now you are probably finished with midterm assignments or exams. Hopefully you did well and know what steps to take to finish the semester on a high note. However, if you didn't do well, does this mean there is no time to improve? No matter how you performed on your midterm exams, there are several ways that you can work on improving your grades.

Read the materials.

Just attending class without doing any preparation is simply not enough. According to a recent study, approximately 70% of students attend class without reading the assigned materials. More often than not, students find the readings challenging and, instead of spending time trying to read the materials, avoid reading completely. Hopefully you attended one of the workshops on reading strategies at the Center for Student Success or be sure to check out the resources website to see what you missed out on that day.

Review your instructor's feedback.

Your instructors put a lot of time and effort into giving you hints and tips on where you can improve on your writing assignments. Before you start your next assignment, pull out those old assignments and review their feedback. Try to understand what suggestions they made based on your writing skills. If you didn't understand their notes, ask to meet your instructor during office hours to review your questions or concerns. Chances are this will be an eye-opening experience for you!

Visit your instructor during office hours

Regardless of what course you are in, all instructors have set aside time where you can visit them

to review your concerns and questions. If you realize that you are struggling with your homework or did not perform well on the exams, go meet with your instructor and ask for help! Find out where you went wrong and be sure you have understood how to improve. This is valuable time that instructors are sitting by to assist their students, therefore, be sure to take advantage of this opportunity for seeking help!

Problem Solving Sessions

Instructors have set aside times weekly where students can receive additional support by teacher assistants. These times are noted on your syllabus or your instructor probably mentioned it in class. If you have not attended these sessions, ask your instructor for more information. Even if you feel pretty comfortable with the material, check out

these sessions in order to see what types of questions your classmates are asking or inquire to learn about challenging questions!

Math & Writing Center

Hopefully by now you have been through the Math & Writing Center and had a consultation session with

our work-study students. If you have not done so yet, make an appointment to come by for help! Even if you are a strong writer or enjoy math, these consultants are available to challenge you and help you learn new strategies for improvement. Be sure to check the office hours and come by today!

These are only a few suggestions on ways to improve. If you have tried all of these methods, be sure to check with your instructor or visit the Center for Student Success for additional help.



Staying healthy + studying = it matters!

It's crunch time: *only six weeks away* from the final week of exams and it is easy to stray from keeping a healthy lifestyle! Students often start to get into bad eating habits and neglect to take care of their overall health. From time to time, it's good to take a break from your studies.

Grab a good book, go for a walk, or visit a museum! These side distractions will help you refresh your mind and give your brain a chance to unwind a little. After a quick break, you may be able to have a different perspective on your assignment that will allow you to produce stronger results.

While you are on campus, AUA has some resources that can help too! For instance, have you met Lusine Babayan? Ms. Babayan, AUA nurse, has an office located on the sixth floor of the Main Building. She is not only available for emergency purposes, but also to consult your health concerns and issues.

Another great resource on campus is the AUA Star Gym! Getting a good work out helps you find a quick distraction from your studies! Finding time to get at least 30 minutes of exercise will help you focus and concentrate better while studying. The fitness center is located in the Paramaz Avedisian Building's half-basement area, Room # B09E and is open daily 7:30AM to 10:30PM.

Finally, be sure to check out the workshops on good hygiene coming up in November for more healthy tips!



Student Activities

With the recent club establishments, AUA Undergraduate students have organized thirteen clubs. One of the common themes amongst the clubs is the artistic talent and skills that students are practicing! Ranging from the Vibrant Canvas where students are exhibiting their painting skills, to the Otaku Club where students enjoy Japanese culture and animation, and finally, onto the stage with the Drama Club! Clubs have begun organizing their meetings and planning major events. Be sure to keep track of their activities by joining the clubs or viewing the Club's bulletin board at the Center for Student Success. For further information, please be sure to visit the Center for Student Success's website to learn more about these clubs: <http://studentsuccess.aua.am/undergraduate-student-clubs-information/>



First Year Vs. Second Year: How I have grown

Anna Aghabekyan, a second year undergraduate student in the business program, shares some of her reflections and experiences in hopes of inspiring other AUA students.



Looking back at her first year, Anna said smiling, "This year I still have not had a sleepless night!" Reflecting on how she started AUA, Anna described how she felt very overwhelmed when she first started studying here at AUA. She says "[its] about how you distribute your time and you eventually do it better by appreciating how precious time is and feel more organized." Aside from her studies, Anna finds time to be an active member of Star Jam, an undergraduate student club. As a member of the club, she highlighted how students focus on goals such as organizing events. From these experiences, Anna says she was able to further develop her cooperation skills. "[The] uniqueness of the AUA atmosphere helps you achieve your success. It's all about discoveries: the world around you, your opportunities and yourself." A year later, Anna describes how she really feels a part of the community. "AUA community is not separated into categories such as students, staff, alumni: we have unity here." This year, Ms. Aghabekyan hopes to share her experiences to better first year students' experiences.



STUDENT SUCCESS

Tigran Ghazaryan, a first year student in the business program, shares his success story in improving his writing. Before his assignments were due, Tigran made sure to set aside time to visit the Math & Writing Center. During each session, Tigran worked very hard with the consultants who provided support mainly with his grammar and essay structure concerns. Over time, Mr. Ghazaryan began to feel more confident. "I spent less time in the Center because they gave me advice that was more concentrated on one thing compared to the first time I came." Throughout the semester, he visited the Center often. "When I got a high grade, it was very exciting for me. I felt how my language and writing improved within the period of a month." He felt comfortable working with the consultants who noted how quickly he showed improvement. Mr. Ghazaryan said, "The consultants working there are very professional and give professional advice...they guide to the right direction for me to improve." Today, Tigran says he has an appointment set to work on his synthesis essay, "I still have to work on my writing but its much easier for me now and I feel much more confident than in the beginning of the semester."

Writing Consultant's Blog

The need for writing in the future

"Too much writing! Why do I even need this?" These are the complaints and questions that we ask ourselves every day at university. For example, when a student studies higher-level mathematics, he constantly questions the neces-

sity of knowing how to write different genres of essays. Unfortunately or fortunately, at some point in our lives we will be required to write down our findings (science) or reports in order to share our discoveries with others, to summarize the progress of work or to merely make our points clear. If the language

and structure that we use in our reports is not comprehensible and clear, our valuable findings may be ignored and not appreciated by the scientific community or by our manager. So whenever you feel down about the amount of writing you were assigned, think that there is yet so much more to come!



Rozalina Monjian,
Business

Math Consultant's Blog

Are you, and everything included around you, made of mathematics?

Mathematics is a human construction, therefore, numbers don't exist in the world -- until humans put them there. The idea that everything comes back to mathematics dates back to ancient times. Nowadays, because of our education system, many people equate mathematics with arithmetics. Mainly most of the courses you may be taking are based on abstract structures rather than real life cases. Isn't math all about numbers? Or, while you look around do you see any geometric patterns? Where is all of the math that we're going on about? You can probably see a few numbers here and there — for example, the page numbers of this Newsletter in your hand — but these are just symbols invented and printed by people, so they can hardly reflect on the ways in which our universe is mathematical. If you're interested in this topic, you should check out other researchers' studies!



Shaghik Amirian,
Master of Engineering in Industrial Engineering Systems Management

Calendar of November Workshops

#12	Public Speaking Tips & Tricks	Small Auditorium, Main Building	November 10th 2:30-4:00pm
#13	Professionalism and Social Media	Center for Student Success Lounge	November 11th 2:00-3:00pm
#14	Improve your Grammar and Word Choice with Online Corpus of Contemporary American English	PAB Room 206E	November 13th 3:00-4:30pm
#15	No Time! Tips on Time Management	Center for Student Success Lounge	November 17th 3:30-5:00pm
#16	Email Etiquette	Center for Student Success Lounge	November 18th 2:00-3:00pm
#17	Good Hygiene	Center for Student Success Lounge	TBD



The Center for Student Success will be celebrating the 15th Anniversary of International Education Week. During the week of November 17-21st, we will have several events and activities lined up to celebrate IEW. For more information, please visit: <http://studentsuccess.aua.am/international-education-week/>.

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 the best interests of all students.

Center for Student Success

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