Creating a Comprehensive Study Plan for Finals

By: Victoria Mitchell, Hixson-Lied Scholar

Finals are quickly approaching and after midterms, the rest of the semester seems to just fly by. This idea frightens many students because the end of the semester inevitably means finals. Students fear finals because there is so much to study in what seems to be so little time. Below is a comprehensive study plan for those who do not know where to start when it comes to studying for finals.

Organizational skills will be reflected in a student’s study skills. With organized class materials, information can be retrieved quickly and easily. An appointment book can assist you in completing tasks on time. Another important aspect is goal setting. Develop a plan for achieving these goals. According to Adina Glickman, the Associate Director for Academic Success Series.

Inside This Issue:
2 Coaching Corner
3 Creating a Comprehensive Study Plan for Finals (Continued); Academic Success Series
4 Mid-Semester Courses; UNLV Career Fair Highlights
5 Utilizing the Writing Center; Tips for Increasing Rebel Spirit

Ms. Christina M. Hixson graduated from high school in Clarinda, Iowa, and moved to Omaha, Nebraska to attend business school. She later went to work for Mr. Ernst F. Lied, a car dealership owner in Omaha, and in 1960, she joined Mr. Lied in Las Vegas, Nevada as his assistant. After Mr. Lied’s death in 1980, Ms. Hixson became the sole trustee of the Lied Foundation Trust, and turned the Lied Foundation Trust into one of the largest foundations in the state of Nevada at that time. Ms. Hixson has a special understanding of young people, who, like her, came from a challenging family background and are willing to work hard.

Mr. Ernst F. Lied was born in Columbus, Ohio, and attended the University of Kansas for two years, where he played on the golf team. He ultimately graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1927. Mr. Lied became a Buick dealer in Omaha, Nebraska, and later his dealership was ranked third in the country for the number of cars sold. Mr. Lied established his charitable foundation in 1972, and upon his death in 1980 at age 74 nearly his entire estate funded the Lied Foundation Trust. Lied Foundation Trust has enhanced the capabilities of many schools and enriched the quality of many lives!
Coaching Corner

By: Sabina Catak, Hixson-Lied Scholar

Maryann Orawczyk, commonly referred to as “Mo,” is originally from a small town in California named Yermo, which is located just outside of Barstow. Mo graduated with a Bachelor’s of Arts in English from UNLV in 2009. After taking a couple years off, she returned to UNLV to enroll in the Master’s program for Higher Education. Her hobbies include: reading, traveling, crocheting, and writing songs. Her favorite book is *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen and she loves all stories and novels authored by Neil Gaiman. Mo loves to write stories and help students when they are struggling. Mo has been with the Academic Success Center for two semesters as a Success Coach.

1) **What situations in life lead you to become who you are today?**
Getting into my Master’s program was a difficult process in general because I am a first generation college student, and my parents couldn’t afford to pay for my school. Thank goodness for loans. But more specifically when I graduated from UNLV in December of 2009, I applied for the Educational Leadership in Higher Education Master’s program in February of 2010. My application made the deadline, but the school budget cuts made it before the deadline. Towards the end of January 2012, a friend of mine contacted me and told me that the Higher Education program was back. I had two to three weeks to get everything together before the deadline, because I had just found out about the reopening. It was a total scramble. Shout out to Dr. Doug Unger and Michael Gordon for writing my letters of recommendation so last minute!

2) **What interested you to join the Academic Success Center as a Success Coach?**
My roommate already has his Masters in Higher Education, and he suggested this program to me. Also, my passion is to work with students in a mentoring type of environment.

3) **What services does the Academic Success Center offer that would be beneficial to students at UNLV?**
Coaching, tutoring, advising and test preparation; and they are all free for undergraduates admitted to UNLV.

4) **If you had any advice for undergraduate students, what would it be?**
Take advantage of every resource the university has to offer. You pay for all the resources so why not take advantage of them?

5) **What advice can you offer to students who are graduating?**
Build your resume, don’t be afraid to apply for everything, and relax...things will work out.

6) **Do you have any other advice, whether it is for school, work or personal life?**
I have a favorite quote, “We all live in suspense, from day to day, from hour to hour; in other words, we are the hero of our own story.” - Mary McCarthy. I think this really speaks to being an independent person. Don’t judge yourself against the lives of other people; live your own story.
Support at Stanford University, if students do not know what they want to achieve, they will not be able to accomplish anything effectively.

Remember that material must be learned before it can be reviewed. This means that original learning has to take place and for this to happen, a student must attend class, pay attention to material being presented, and take notes. Also, review materials soon after class and be sure to pay close attention to the middle material, as it is most likely to be forgotten. Space out review in order to avoid fatigue, strengthen previous learning, increase motivation, and improve concentration. If you are familiar with the concept “the best way to learn is to teach,” you probably know the best way to implement it is in a study group. In study groups, students are exposed to ideas they would not have come up with on their own.

According to the Student Counseling Service at Texas A & M University, students should find a study place free from distractions and leave that place as a designated study area. You will also want to allot time each day to study. Finally, studying for finals should be a last review session and cramming should be avoided. During this time, you should be drawing conclusions and connections to the material. It should take between 2-4 hours to review the entire semester’s work.

So next time you feel overwhelmed around test time, take a moment to think about what you can do to assure that you will be able to make it through finals stress free.

For more information please use the following links:
- [http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/success/study.html](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/success/study.html)
- [http://scs.tamu.edu/?q=node/74](http://scs.tamu.edu/?q=node/74)

---

**Academic Success Series**

By: Brittany Prescott, Hixson-Lied Scholar

The Academic Success Series, presented by the ASC Success Coaches, is taking place the entire month of April. The Series will take place on select Fridays in the Dayton Complex Conference Room, which is located in Dayton South. Each segment will have two sessions on their assigned date, one at 1:00pm and another at 2:30pm. The event is free to all UNLV students who bring a valid Rebel ID card.

The segments in the series will help students with things such as studying effectively, goals, and time management. College can be stressful, especially if you work and participate in extracurricular activities. The Academic Success Series will help you keep on track by providing insight from the Success Coaches who have already been in your shoes. The segments will be a great way to learn from their experiences and create techniques that work for you.

Don’t forget to invite Rebel friends, too! For more information, you can call (702) 774-4623.

**Academic Success Series Schedule:**
- Friday, April 5th Time Management
- Friday, April 12th Goal Setting
- Friday, April 19th Study Skills
Mid-semester Courses

By: Brittany Prescott, Hixson-Lied Scholar

A variety of mid-semester courses are available during the Spring and Fall semesters. If you are interested in taking a mid-semester course, you should speak with your academic advisor. Students will take a mid-semester course different reasons that include: missing the regular semester registration date, failing a course during the semester, and getting ahead or staying on track for graduation. Mid-semester course meeting times vary by class. For information on a specific course, you can visit my.unlv.edu or speak with your academic advisor. These courses will give the same material that a regular semester course gives, but at a faster pace.

One student reflected on his mid-semester experience positively, “It went fast, wasn’t too stressful, and boosted my GPA.” He also recommended keeping up with the homework and attendance, because of the shortened timeframe.

Some courses coming up that are offered are:
COLA 100E – First Year Seminar: Exploring Majors
ENG 407A - Fundamentals of Business Writing
GSC 205X - Diversity in Urban America
NURS 140 - Medical Terminology

For this Spring semester, instruction of mid-semester courses will begin April 8 and end May 11. Mid-semester courses end before finals week, so you can focus on finals for your other classes. The final day to drop or withdraw from regular semester classes without a refund or change from credit to audit is April 5th. Drops and withdrawals will not be allowed after this date even with instructor approval. So, as soon as you get all of your mid-semester grades, be sure to decide whether or not you’d like to take a mid-semester course.

UNLV Career Fair Highlights

By: Sabina Catak, Hixson-Lied Scholar

The UNLV Career Fair day took place at the Thomas and Mack Center on Wednesday, March 20th, from 10:00am to 3:00pm. The attendees included current UNLV students and alumni. This event offered over 140 large corporations and well-known companies from around the world. Companies that attended include: Wyndham Resorts and Time Share, Wells Fargo Banking, Alpha Omega Financial Services, Camden Living, San Jose Police, and many more. This fair has provided a solid stepping-stone for many UNLV students who are close to graduation or who have graduated. In my experience at the fair, I have received over five interview offers and was able to learn about different career opportunities for a better future.
Utilizing the Writing Center

By: Natalie Costa, Hixson-Lied Scholar

The Writing Center’s main location is located in the Central Desert Complex Building 3 and a satellite location is on the second floor of the Lied Library. The Writing Center helps UNLV students better their writing skills on assignments. They also provide the essentials students need for writing grammatically correct; however, the Writing Center does not proofread or edit papers for students. Students should seek help from a classmate or mentor for proofreading and editing assignments.

A computer lab is available in CDC 3 if students would like to do research or write their assignments during free time. The consultants help students with the writing process, constructing the qualities that the student may be lacking, brainstorming ideas, creating outlines for rough drafts, and providing beneficial information to help all students succeed.

If a UNLV student would like to receive help from the Center they will need to call (702) 895-3908 or go to CBC Building 3 to make an appointment. Walk-ins are sometimes available but it is better to plan ahead and make an appointment. Appointments last about 45 minutes. Students should come prepared with questions! The consultants are all graduate students working toward a degree in English or creative writing.

Tips for Increasing Rebel Spirit

Wear Rebel Gear. Show off your Rebel Pride to fellow students and community members. Nothing says, “I’m proud to be a Rebel” like wearing your favorite UNLV shirt.

Join a club on campus. There are many to choose from varying from Greek Life to major specific clubs and intramural sports to community service organizations.

Get involved with CSUN or Rebel Events Board (REB). If you are interested in planning Rebel events or being involved with higher education politics, CSUN or REB are good organizations to start with.

Attend events whenever possible. This will help you feel that you are a part of the campus and you will probably meet other Rebels that will also help you increase school spirit.

Volunteer. The Career Center offers plenty of volunteer opportunities. You will not only be helping the community, you will gain volunteer experience and learn more about UNLV.

Learn about campus. You may have more respect for campus if you know more about it. This insight will also help you provide others with useful information about the campus.