

GS-1 College Success

Course Information

- Semester and Year: Spring 2026
- Course ID and Section number: GS-1-V0437
- Instructor's name: Mike Peterson
- This course uses Canvas for asynchronous online delivery.
- Course Units: 3.0

Instructor Contact Information

- Office hours: Office hours are available by appointment on Zoom.
- Email address: mike-peterson@redwoods.edu

Required Materials

- The required, zero cost textbook is [College Success](#) from OpenStax. It can be read online, and it is also available as a free .pdf file. If you want to purchase the book, the ISBN for the paperback version is 978-1951693183.
- A textbook that I recommend is *How to Become a Straight A Student* ISBN 978-0767922715. We will be looking at this book throughout the course for some optional assignments. You don't have to purchase this book, but it is good, and I will show you some ideas in it.

Catalog Description

This course introduces students to the social, psychological, and physical aspects of self-development including the personal, interpersonal, and academic skills required to successfully set and achieve one's goals in college and throughout life. The course emphasizes the development of the critical self-awareness, resiliency, and integrity necessary to face the inevitable challenges of academic, personal, and career pursuits. Additional topics will include developing college-level study skills, utilizing campus resources, engaging in student education planning, and forming a compassionate attitude towards self and others in the context of a diverse society and campus learning community.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Identify the common challenges that students face throughout their college experience and the services available on campus to support them.
- Explore college culture, expectations, and processes to create a comprehensive individual career and academic plan.
- Practice essential student skills such as interpersonal communication skills, emotional intelligence, time management, effective study techniques, research methods, and self-advocacy.
- Explain the value of self-reflection and life-long learning as it relates to college, career and personal fulfillment.
- Engage in dialogue regarding cultural humility, inclusivity, and the benefits of a college

experience that includes working with peers and instructors from diverse backgrounds.

Course Calendar

This late-start class begins on January 31, 2026, and ends on May 15, 2026. Weekly topics and major assignment due dates will appear in a separate document entitled *Textbook Chapter Reading Schedule*.

Evaluation and Grading Policy

Your final grade for the course will be based on the following criteria:

- Written Assignments and Course Activities, 30%
- Graded Discussions, 20%
- Quizzes, 20%
- Course Project – Career and Education Plan, 20%
- Final Examination, 10%

Written Assignments and Class Activities are assignments that require a written response, an essay, or a report-out on an activity.

Graded Discussions are weekly online discussion forums where you will read and post comments based upon some assigned topic.

Quizzes will utilize multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions.

Your Course Project will be a documented report that will detail your plans to achieve success in college, career, and life.

We will have a Final Examination that is due May 15, 2026, at 11:59 PM.

Grades will be assigned according to these percentages:

- A = 90 – 100%
- B = 80 – 89%
- C = 70 – 79%
- D = 60 – 69%
- F = 0 – 59%

Prerequisites/ Corequisites/ Recommended Preparation

This course has no prerequisites, co-requisites, or recommended preparation.

Educational Accessibility and Support

College of the Redwoods is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for qualified students who could benefit from additional educational support and services. You may qualify if you have a physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual condition which causes you to struggle academically, including but not limited to:

- Mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, or bipolar disorder
- Common ailments such as arthritis, asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, and diseases
- Temporary impairments such as a broken bone, recovery from significant surgery, or a pregnancy-related disability
- Neurodevelopmental disorders such as a learning disability, intellectual disability, autism, acquired brain injury, or ADHD
- Vision, hearing, or mobility conditions

Available services include extended test time, quiet testing environments, academic assistance and tutoring through the [LIGHT Center](#), counseling and advising, alternate formats of course materials (e.g., audio books, braille, E-texts), assistive technology, learning disability assessments, approval for personal attendants, interpreters, priority registration, on-campus transportation, adaptive physical education and living skills courses, and more. If you believe you might benefit from disability- or health-related services and accommodations, please contact [Student Accessibility Support Services \(SASS\)](#). If you are unsure whether you qualify, please contact Student Accessibility Support Services (SASS) for a consultation: sass@redwoods.edu.

SASS office locations and phone numbers

Eureka campus

- Phone: (707) 476-4280
- Location: Learning Resource Center (Library)

Del Norte campus

- Phone: (707) 465-2353
- Location: main building, near the Library

Klamath-Trinity campus

- Phone: (707) 476-4280

Student Services and Support Handbook

For more information about the college please see the Student Services and Support Handbook on Canvas.