EDCP 108B: Academic Success Strategies  
University of Maryland, College Park  

Fall 2016

COURSE EDCP108B Section 0201  
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TERM Fall 2016  
CREDITS 1  
MEETING TIMES Online: October 16 – December 12, 2016

Course Description and Objectives  
EDCP 108B is designed to empower you to become a more active, strategic learner, both in 
college and in life. The content is based on well-researched brain-based learning strategies that, 
if used correctly, will help you to become a more successful student. By examining your prior 
and current learning strategies, you will be encouraged to make wise choices to create new 
pathways for growth now and in the future.

This section of EDCP 108B is an online class. As such, you are expected to be self-motivated 
and take personal responsibility for your learning. You will be expected to read, view 
PowerPoints, watch videos, and prepare for class on your own. There might be worksheets 
and/or quizzes, in addition to the course assignments that you’ll need to complete after reading 
and/or watching a video, so that you have the opportunity to demonstrate your learning. Expect 
to spend between 4-6 hours a week on this class. To be most successful in the online 
environment, you should schedule time each day to do the work for EDCP 108B.

To see if you are ready to learn in the online environment, you can take the following 
assessment: http://www.butte.edu/distance/assess_online.html. If your score is below 25 you 
may need to adjust your learning strategies to successfully complete this course.

Textbook  
Downing, Skip. ON COURSE: Strategies for Success in College and in Life (8th Ed.), 2015 

You are required to purchase this textbook using this particular ISBN number. If you buy a 
different edition of the textbook, you will not be able to engage in all the online course activities. 
You can see purchasing details on Testudo (go to https://ntst.umd.edu/soc/201608/EDCP 
and click the textbook icon in the EDCP108B section). If you purchase the book from some other 
source, be sure not to purchase any related Mindtap access.

Course Canvas Site  
Our course Canvas site (www.elms.umd.edu) will be the venue for our class. A module is 
included for each week of the course that provides directions and materials for the week. Get in 
the habit of checking the site at the beginning of each week as important announcements may 
be posted. All your work will be submitted via Canvas.
Course Objectives:
Throughout this course, we will work towards achieving the following objectives:

**Taking charge of your life:** You will learn how to accept personal responsibility and gain more control over the outcomes and experiences that you create in both college and life.

**Increasing self-motivation:** You will learn to create greater inner motivation by, among other things, discovering your own personally meaningful goals and dreams.

**Improving personal self-management:** You will learn numerous strategies for taking control of your time and energy, allowing you to move more effectively toward reaching your goals.

**Developing interdependence:** You will learn how to develop mutually supportive relationships with people who will help you achieve your goals, and whom you can assist to achieve theirs. You will learn more about yourself within the context of being a member of the University of Maryland community.

**Increasing Self-awareness:** You will learn to understand and revise self-defeating patterns of behavior, thought, and emotions. You will identify your learning preferences in order to use study strategies that will work for you. In addition, better self-understanding will help you to make wise choices to lead to success in college and in life.

**Maximizing your learning:** You will learn to develop your own learning system and master effective study skills. You will learn how to raise your grades in college by improving essential skills, such as active reading, note-taking, studying, and taking exams.

**Developing emotional intelligence:** You will learn how to use your emotions in order to support your goals and dreams and to make wise decisions that will help you stay on course.

**Believing in yourself:** “The foundation of anyone’s ability to cope successfully is high self-esteem. If you don’t already have it, you can always develop it.” (Virginia Satir)

**Learning Outcomes**
As a result of participating in this class, students will:

- **Identify and apply the Wise Choice Process to their college experience**
  Important concepts include: Wise Choice Process, Victim/Creator Language, Self-Talk, and Accepting Responsibility

- **Describe and develop self-management strategies for achieving academic success**
  Important concepts include: Time Management, Procrastination, Motivation, Goal Setting, and SMART Goals.
Explain interdependence and identify helpful campus resources
Important concepts include: Academic Policies, Career Exploration and Resources, and Building a Network of Support.

Identify their personal approach to learning and implement a personal set of learning strategies that will lead to success and life-long learning
Important concepts include: Active Learning, Study Skills, Exam Preparation and Exam-Taking Skills, and Brain-Based Learning

Identify personal strengths and growth edges
Important activities include: Writing journals and reflections, and pre- and post-self-assessment results

Course Integrity
The University has a nationally recognized Honor Code, administered by the Student Honor Council. The pledge, approved by the University Senate, reads: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination." The Pledge should be handwritten and signed on all tests in this course. In conjunction with the University’s Code of Academic Integrity, allegations of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Honor Council. As a student, you are responsible for upholding these standards. Be aware of consequences of cheating and facilitation of academic dishonesty. More information can be found at www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor so reasonable accommodations can be made to assist learning and evaluation in the class. In addition, students should contact the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) to document their disability and identify appropriate accommodations. DSS (301-314-7682) provides a variety of services to students with disabilities; staff is available to consult with students at any time (www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS). It is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester of any documented disabilities.

Students in Need of Assistance
The University of Maryland offers a variety of services for students in need of either educational or psychological assistance. Learning Assistance Service (LAS) offers services and programs on writing skills, study and time management skills, math learning skills. They also offer a range of handouts, available on-line. If you need other educational services or support, please contact your instructor for additional resources.

If you are experiencing personal stress that is interfering with your ability to succeed, please consider contacting the Counseling Center’s Counseling Service or the Mental Health Service at the University Health Center for an appointment. The Counseling Center also offers on-line resources on a series of topics.
Learning Assistance Service (LAS)  
2202 Shoemaker Building  
Email – las-cc@umd.edu  
Phone – 301-314-7693  
Website – www.counseling.umd.edu/LAS/

Counseling Service  
1st Floor, Shoemaker Building  
Phone – 301-314-7651  
Website – www.counseling.umd.edu

University Health Center, Mental Health Service  
2nd Floor, University Health Center (across from the Stamp Student Union)  
Phone – 301-314-8106  
Website - www.health.umd.edu/mentalhealth

Classroom Attendance
Since this is an online class, the University’s normal attendance policy does not apply. You can do each week’s work at your own pace and at your own time, however, all activities and assignments must be completed and/or submitted by every **Sunday night at 11:59 pm** to receive credit for that week’s module. Your “attendance” is measured by the work that you complete each week in the online modules.

In the event that you do have any extenuating circumstances (including illness) that might make it difficult for you to complete that week’s work please get in touch the instructor.

Religious Observations
Because we are a diverse community and enroll students with many spiritual beliefs, we will be sensitive to students’ requests for excused absences and make-up test requests due to reasons of religious observances. Be mindful that it is the student’s responsibility to inform instructors of any intended absences for religious observances in advance. Notice should be provided as soon as possible. Because of the online nature of the class and your ability to structure your own schedule, these requests will not normally be granted. However, I will work with you to help you plan out your work that week.

Course Evaluations
CourseEvalUM will be open for students to complete their evaluations at the end of the semester. Students can go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to do so. Students will be alerted via their official University e-mail account when the website is active for this semester.

Course Cancellations/Delays
Similarly, since this is an online course, you are expected to do the assigned work, even if the University is closed or there are delays due to inclement weather or emergencies. Listen to the news, call the university, or check the university website (www.umd.edu) for any cancellations or delays due to inclement weather or emergencies. You may also sign up for the free university text messaging system, UMD Alerts, and receive text messages with alerts such as cancellations or delays. (alert.umd.edu). When in doubt, you can contact the instructor for clarification.
Course Requirements

Below is an overview of the assignments you are responsible for throughout the semester. Detailed instructions along with a scoring rubric for each assignment are provided on the course ELMS site. Complete all assignments as directed in the assignment instructions on the course ELMS site. You are encouraged to ask questions about these assignments early and often. Please note assignment due dates. There will be a 10% deduction for each day an assignment is late. Assignments will not be accepted beyond one week of the due date. Assignments must be saved in Word or pdf format and submitted via the course ELMS site. Please do not email assignments. All assignments must be typed except the schedule portion of the Time Management assignment.

1. **Weekly Discussions (10 points/week - 100 points total)**
The heart of our online classroom will be in our weekly discussions in Canvas. After you complete the required reading, PowerPoint viewing and/or video viewing for the week, you’ll respond to questions on the week’s work. You will be responsible for answering each question with thoughtful, original answers; in addition, you will reply to at least two other classmates’ posts to keep the discussion moving forward. You must respond to the questions by Wednesday evening at by 11:59 pm and reply to classmates’ posts by Sunday evenings at 11:59 pm. A rubric is available that shows how your online discussions will be graded.

2. **Pre-Assessment and Reflection (25 points)** Honest self-awareness of your strengths and growth edges is an important part of college success. In order to understand yourself, you’ll be doing a self-assessment at the beginning of our class in order to see where you stand related to the different principles for college success.

3. **Brain-Based Learning Reflection (20 points)**
You will write a reflection about what you have learned about brain-based learning and how you will use this knowledge to help you achieve academic success here at UMD.

4. **Time Management Project & Reflection (25 points)**
Managing your time in college is one of the most crucial tasks for being successful. This is especially important if you are an athlete and have responsibilities to your coach, trainer, and team; or if you are working off campus or have other responsibilities that you must balance with your academic load. You will complete several time management activities and write a reflection.

5. **Instructor Appointment and Reflection (20 points)**
You will be required to schedule and attend one 30-minute appointment with your instructor or other LAS academic coach designated by your instructor. Call 301-314-7693 or go to https://lasonline.umd.edu. The appointment may be scheduled via Skype, Facetime (or other software) if you are out of the area. You will write a reflection about the session.

6. **Academic Policies Quiz (10 points)**
The Academic Policies quiz is delivered online via Canvas.
7. **Post-Assessment and Reflection (25 points)**
   Just as you did a self-assessment at the beginning of our class, you will now do a self-assessment as our class is drawing to a close. This will give you a chance to reflect on what you have learned about the principles for college success during our class.

8. **Final Success Portfolio (75 Points)**
   In lieu of a final exam, students are to develop an electronic course portfolio to demonstrate their learning in the course. You will select an appropriate electronic tool (Video, Website, Prezi or PowerPoint) to display your portfolio. The selected electronic tool should be one that is accessible by anyone using a standard computer and software. That is, it does not require the purchase of special software to access it.

**GRADING:** The final grade will be determined by points. There is a total of 300 points to be earned in this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>290-300 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>280-289 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>270-279 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>260-269 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>250-259 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>240-249 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>230-239 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>220-229 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>210-219 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>200-209 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>190-199 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>180-189 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>≤ 179 points</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Discussions</td>
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<td>Weekly Initial post by each Wednesday at 11:59 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-assessment and Reflection</td>
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<td>Brain-Based Learning Reflection</td>
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<td>October 30, 2016</td>
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<td>Time Management Project – Part I</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Time Management Project – Part II</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>November 13, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructor Appointment and Reflection</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>November 20, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Policies Quiz</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>November 27, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-assessment and Reflection</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>December 4, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Success Portfolio</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>December 11, 2016</td>
</tr>
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</table>

The instructor of the course reserves the right to amend the topics, schedule, and/or assignments of the course. You will be notified of any changes.
**Outline of Course**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings/Assignments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Week 1:**| Course Introduction Module 1: Getting On Course to Your Success | • Read the course syllabus  
 • View the “Introduction_EDCP108B_0401_Fall 2016” PowerPoint  
 • Downing Chapter 1 and pages 261-267  
 • Pre-assessment and Reflection Due  
 • Discussion Questions |
| 10/17-10/23|                                            |                                                                                         |
| **Week 2:**| Module 2: Accepting Personal Responsibility Module 3: Brain-Based Learning | • Downing Chapter 2 and pages 268-273  
 • Wise Choice Activity p. 61  
 • View the “Memory and Brain-based Learning” PowerPoint and watch the “How to Get the Most out of Studying” Videos*  
 • Brain-Based Learning Reflection Due  
 • Discussion Questions |
| 10/24-10/30|                                            |                                                                                         |
| **Week 3:**| Module 4: Discovering Self-Motivation Module 5: Mastering Self-Management | • Downing Chapters 3 & 4 and pp. 274-289  
 • View “Time Management” PowerPoint  
 • Time Management Part I assignment Due  
 • Begin Time Management Part II  
 • Schedule Instructor Appointment  
 • Discussion Questions |
| 10/31-11/6 |                                            |                                                                                         |
| **Week 4:**| Module 6: Employing Interdependence Module 7: Gaining Self-Awareness | • Downing Chapters 5 & 6 and pp.290-306  
 • Discussion Questions (be sure to do the campus scavenger hunt and rehearsal strategies exercise)  
 • Time Management Part II Due |
| 11/7-11/13 |                                            |                                                                                         |
| **Week 5:**| Module 8: Adopting Life Long Learning Module 9: Developing Emotional Intelligence | • Downing Chapter 7 (be sure to complete the learning preference inventory)  
 • Downing Chapter 8 and pages 307-315  
 • Watch Ted Talks “Don’t Eat the Marshmallow” and “The Danger of a Single Story”  
 • Instructor Reflection Due  
 • Discussion Questions |
| 11/14-11/20|                                            |                                                                                         |
| **Week 6:**| Module 10: Understanding Academic Policies Module 11: Staying On Course to Your Success | • View “Academic Policies PowerPoint”  
 • Academic Policies Quiz  
 • Discussion Questions  
 • Downing Chapter 9  
 • Post-assessment and Reflection Due |
| 11/21-12/4 |                                            |                                                                                         |
| **Week 7:**| Submit course portfolio | • Final Success Portfolio Due |
| 12/5-12/11 |                                            |                                                                                         |
Video website addresses:

**How to Get the Most Out of Studying (required)**
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL85708E6EA236E3DB](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL85708E6EA236E3DB)

**The Danger of a Single Story (required)**

Optional Videos:

**How the Human Brain Works**
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UukedU258A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UukedU258A)

**How the Brain Works – Part 3 (UCLA)**
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEThAMabLQM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEThAMabLQM)

**Brain Rules**