

Transitioning Supports that Work in College

2019 Edition, Ph.D.
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Overview

- ▶ Background
- ▶ College Program Overview
- ▶ Skills Development Overview
- ▶ Effective Study & Reading Strategies that Work for Our Students

Background

- ▶ The mission of the Marshall University H.E.L.P. Center is to provide educational support, remediation, and mentoring to individuals with a specific Learning Disability and/or Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.
- ▶ Founded in 1981 by Dr. Barbara Guyer
- ▶ Associated with Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia
- ▶ Community, College, Professional, and Diagnostic Sectors

College Program Overview

- ▶ Comprehensive support program for Marshall University students with diagnosed specific learning disabilities and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- ▶ Fee-based
- ▶ Provides one-on-one tutoring for academic courses
- ▶ Provides a skills development component where specific deficit areas are addressed
- ▶ Most tutoring is provided by graduate assistants who are receiving their Master's degrees in their field of study or expertise
- ▶ Provides assistance with scheduling and other academic-related issues
- ▶ Currently have 180 students enrolled

Skills Development

- ▶ Required for all freshmen for their first two semesters
- ▶ Individualized based on deficit areas
 - ▶ Deficit areas determined by psycho-educational testing
- ▶ Areas include: reading comprehension, encoding/decoding, mathematics, time management skills, organizational skills, and study skills
- ▶ Provides progress and grade monitoring
- ▶ Promotes independence
- ▶ Offers summer program to incoming freshmen

Effective Strategies for Our Students

- ▶ "Attacking Reading Assignments Plan"
- ▶ Previewing
- ▶ Marking the Text
- ▶ Read & Record
- ▶ Sticky Summaries
- ▶ 3 Minute Lecture

"Attacking Reading Assignments Plan"

1. Break apart reading into manageable sections
2. Preview the text
3. Select a reading strategy
4. Actively read the text
5. Review
6. Self-test

Previewing

- ▶ Before reading, skim/scan the text, paying special attention to bolded words, headings, and pictures
- ▶ What is this about? What do I already know about this?
- ▶ ALWAYS preview before reading anything
- ▶ May choose to make a preview web
- ▶ Quick - should take roughly 10-15 seconds per page

Marking the Text

- ▶ After previewing, interact with the text by highlighting or distinguishing important information from non-essential information
- ▶ Identify important concepts including main ideas, vocabulary, graphic data, etc.
- ▶ Use a highlighter or other distinguishing marks
- ▶ Use abbreviations, bracket key passages, start important facts, enumerate series, etc.
- ▶ Keep in mind the purpose of a highlighter

Read & Record

- ▶ Using a recording device, record yourself reading potential test questions or vocabulary. Pause for several seconds before recording the answer.
- ▶ Replay recording over the period of time before an exam
- ▶ Attempt to answer the question before listening to the answer. Pause the recording if more time is needed.
- ▶ Fast and effective - cause use during "found time"
- ▶ Provides repeated exposure to material in a convenient way

Sticky Summaries

- ▶ Using Post-it Notes, summarize subsections of text into bullet points, short sentences, important vocabulary, etc.
- ▶ Allows student to monitor comprehension and revisit text quickly
- ▶ Prevents reading "mindlessly" and allows students to break apart text and return to the reading without having to re-read
- ▶ Promotes active reading
- ▶ Can enumerate sticky notes and pull out of the book for a quick mapping review
 - ▶ Reinforces relationships between ideas

3 Minute Lecture

- ▶ Using a dry-erase board, student talks out loud, discussing what they know about a particular topic or chapter
- ▶ Limited to 3 minutes to promote a concise review - no reciting of the chapter
- ▶ Student then returns to the text or notes to fill in the gaps
- ▶ Promotes active engagement with the material and allows students to self-test
- ▶ Follows 90% rule
- ▶ Multi-sensory