



Marianopolis Plan for Success
SOCIAL SCIENCE AND COMMERCE

A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS BY STUDENTS

Marianopolis College
Social Science and Commerce Department

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Acknowledgements

This is one of the many projects that Marianopolis College has initiated under its Plan for Success to foster greater student achievement. It is evidence of our commitment to our students and their success.

Because we are a student-centered college, it is only natural that such a handbook should be written by students for other students. We are very grateful for the hard work and commitment displayed by Alan Doucet, Gayle Levine and Scott Pedvis, members of the Class of 2003 and authors of the first edition in that same year. We also thank Alyssa Power '08 and Alessandro Power '09, who did some updates and prepared a separate version for Science students.

Several current and former faculty and staff members were involved in this project, including Mary Allen, Christian Corno, Charlene Milne and Brian Webb. We are grateful to all who helped with this project in all its various stages.

We hope that this handbook will be helpful to many current and future students.



Laura Paris
Learning Resources Centre

Introduction

Welcome to Marianopolis College! You are one of many lucky students attending this wonderful institution. For the next two years, you will have an opportunity to have a tremendous learning experience, both inside and outside the classroom. You will likely find that Marianopolis will be a significant change from high school. Here, you have more freedom and independence. However, more is expected from you in terms of quality of work and personal maturity.

As a Social Science or Commerce student, you can choose courses from a wide range of fascinating disciplines in both the specific and general parts of the program. If you put in the effort, we know you will succeed academically, make new friends and participate in activities that will enrich your Marianopolis experience.

When assignments and papers are piled high and you think you will never be able to pass one more midterm, don't panic. We have all been there. Hopefully, our insights and advice in the following pages will assist you in avoiding this situation. They have been drawn from our own experiences at Marianopolis and from the several helpful study guides and handouts cited in the bibliography.

The first step to academic success at Marianopolis is to read this handbook, which has been written for new students by graduates of your program. In the following pages, we have outlined tips and strategies to facilitate your transition from high school to CEGEP.

No matter how strong a student you may be, this handbook can help you. While these tips are no substitute for your own hard work, we hope they will save you time and make your life easier.

Good luck and have a wonderful experience at the College!

Sincerely,

Alan Doucet, Gayle Levine and Scott Pedvis
Class of 2003

Top Ten Tips

1) Attendance. Go to class! There are many reasons why skipping class may be detrimental to your academic performance. Some reasons are:

- Certain topics may not be covered in your textbooks and may only be covered in class.
- By being in class, you can pick up on what the teacher feels is important and what will likely be on tests or exams. Coming to class will save you time in the long run.
- The class notes will make more sense to you if you take them yourself rather than copying a friend's. In addition, notes in your own handwriting serve to prompt memory.
- You may be considered in poor academic standing if you exceed a certain number of absences. This you don't need!
- Most teachers notice who comes to class and who does not, even if they don't take attendance. Don't expect your teacher to bend over backwards later in the term if you have not been attending class or have been disruptive.
- Participation in the class discussions, debates and interaction is an important part of the learning experience. If you are not there, you cannot participate.

Before class

- Re-read your notes to refresh your memory. This is especially important because most teachers will not review the material of the previous class and will expect you to be familiar with the subject matter.

When you are in class

- Try to be attentive and take good notes (check out Tip #4).
- Should you happen to become bored, there are several steps you can take to alleviate this.

Try to focus on your note-taking. Force yourself to take more notes rather than fewer notes and don't just copy what is on the board.

Remind yourself that, if nothing else, you still need this information to pass the course.

Sit at the front of the class. It's often easier to concentrate there.

If all else fails, sit up straight and try and fool your brain into thinking you are interested. (Prof. Skerry)

Turn off your cell phone and don't chatter to your classmates. Do not wander out and back in during the class. You don't want the teacher to remember you for the wrong reasons!

If you have to miss class for whatever reason, be sure to:

- Inform the teacher in advance, if possible.
- Get the notes you missed from a reliable source or sources.
- Re-read these notes and try to understand the material.
- Check to see if any assignments, projects or handouts were distributed during the class.
- See your teacher with any uncertainties or questions you may have. But don't expect to get your own private lecture. And whatever you do, don't begin with, "Did I miss anything important today?"

Remember that in CEGEP, skipping tests for unacceptable reasons (and you know what they are) is not grounds for a re-write. Make-ups are not automatic. Teachers will give a zero if you do not have a valid explanation for why you missed the test or if you ignored the protocol for informing them. If your reason for missing is foreseeable, and in your opinion valid, speak to your teacher beforehand and make sure he or she accepts your reason. It will help if you are in good standing, i.e., your attendance and behaviour have been excellent.

2) Organization

One of the most important keys to success is getting yourself organized. So **plan ahead**. The pace of life at Marianopolis changes very quickly. If you know that a test or assignment is approaching, do everything in your power to reduce the amount of work you will have to do at the last minute.

- **Always write down dates for assignments, tests, papers, meetings, projects and deadlines in your Agenda.** The Agenda is given to you free, so use it! It contains all kinds of useful and important information about college life and it indicates holidays, upcoming events and other important dates, such as teacher-student days. It's an important resource so keep it close by.
- **Make yourself a to-do list at the beginning of every week** and cross off the items as you accomplish them.
- **Prioritize your work.** An assignment worth 20 marks requires more time and effort than one worth 5.
- **Do something every day.** Don't let a single day go by without doing something school-related. If you get stuck or bored with one project, go on to another.
- **Use your breaks wisely!** Study, see teachers or do research during your breaks. The Library offers quiet space to do work and you can use the computers in the computer labs, Library and TLT to work on papers.

- **Do something to get started** the day an assignment, project or essay is assigned, even if it is a small bit, like writing an outline or starting the research. Getting the ball rolling is the first step! If you are stuck, see your teacher.
- **Attempt to establish a routine.** Although sometimes difficult, a routine can keep you on track and focused.
- **Break down tasks into small mini-tasks.** For example, don't write "study for Sociology" in your Agenda. Instead, write "study ch. 8 of Sociology textbook and learn definitions of the various types of crimes." This will make the work seem more manageable.
- **Make time for yourself.** An important part of CEGEP is socializing, meeting people, making new friends and having fun. However, be sure to leave yourself some down time for relaxation, hobbies and sleep. Getting yourself organized will allow you to do all these things and get those good grades, too. It is possible!

3) Office hours

- All teachers should have their office hours posted on their doors and in their course outlines.
- If you know that you need to meet a teacher and your schedule does not coincide with the posted office hours, contact him or her in class to arrange a meeting.
- Take advantage of office hours. Drop by whenever you need to for some help or advice. Part of your teacher's job is to assist you in succeeding at Marianopolis.
- Don't be intimidated by the idea of speaking with your teachers. There is no reason to be embarrassed if you are having difficulty in a particular subject. Regardless of how well you are doing in a course, if you put in an effort, teachers will be more than willing to help you. Meeting with them during their office hours is one way to show you are interested and want to do well. They are there to help you but the first step is yours.
- During the December and May exam periods, teachers' office hours will change. Make sure you are aware of their new times.
- Some teachers may be willing to answer short questions by Omnivox. Check with the teacher.

When seeing a teacher during office hours, be sure to come prepared.

This means:

- Come with notes and questions.
- Give the teacher enough time to help you. If the office hours end at 1:30, don't show up at 1:28 with 11 questions.
- Don't arrive expecting the teacher to explain the whole course to you, especially if your attendance record is less than adequate.
- Avoid saying, "I don't understand anything!" Be focused and polite.

The majority of teachers share offices. If you do not feel comfortable meeting in front of your teacher's office-mate, ask him or her to arrange a more private meeting at the College.

4) Note-taking

In class:

- Make sure you are prepared to take notes for every class. Have paper and pens with you.
- Have a separate binder or notebook for each subject. Or, at the very least, each subject should have its own section in a notebook.
- Mark off any terms or concepts that a teacher emphasizes. Some teachers will actually say, "This is important" or "This is a typical final exam question," so make sure you write down what they say.
- Use abbreviations in your notes.
- Look for "signal" words from the teacher, such as "the three main reasons why," "her most important findings were," "you need to know this," "be aware of this" and "this concept is important."
- Often, in the last few minutes of a class, teachers will summarize what they have discussed. Instead of packing up your books to be the first one to leave, ensure that you have taken notes on everything the teacher has discussed.
- If you realize that you do not have notes on some of the material covered in the lecture, either speak to the teacher immediately following the class or obtain the notes from a reliable student.
- If there is a term or concept that you do not understand, do not hesitate to ask the teacher in class to further explain the material. However, if you realize that you still need clarification after the second explanation, see the teacher as soon as possible after class. If you don't, you will be confused when you re-read your notes.
- Remember that the more time a teacher spends on an idea or concept, the more likely it is to appear on a test.
- Make sure to take note of any material written on the board or shown on an overhead. Don't fall asleep during videos! Taking notes on the video can help maintain your focus!
- Leave spaces in your notes if you cannot keep up. If you miss a topic, do not fall behind. You can always fill in the missing information after class.
- Be very careful when lending your notes to someone else. Make sure you will get them back in good order and in time for you to do your studying.

Textbooks

- Your teacher will tell you what textbooks, course packs or other material you are expected to buy. Ask the teacher if an older edition would suffice, as this can save you money.

- Check to see if there are secondhand copies available but be sure to get the right edition. You can buy and sell secondhand books through Ominbox, under "Services." Ask your teacher if you are expected to bring the book to class and if the text is available on reserve at the Library. Don't forget to write your name in your textbook.
- It's often helpful to take notes on what you have read. Some people find using a highlighter useful but don't highlight everything, just the really important stuff.
- Keep up with the reading! That way you will not be stuck the night before the test with 300 pages to read. Use information in textbooks in conjunction with your class notes. If you do not understand something being presented in the text, check to see if your class notes can help you understand or vice versa. Use the index at the back of the book and look for glossaries that explain and define terms with which you may not be familiar.
- Make sure you pay particular attention to assigned material in the textbook that was not covered in class.
- Look for bolded or italicized terms or concepts in the text.
- Check to see if there is a chapter introduction and read it carefully.
- Make sure you read the chapter summaries at the end of each chapter as well.
- Often texts have lists of important terms at the end of each chapter. These lists are a helpful way to review and to test your knowledge and comprehension.
- Attempt to understand the material, rather than memorize it.
- In Social Science and Commerce, especially in Economics and Quantitative Methods, textbooks have graphs. Make sure you understand them and can reproduce them.
- Don't forget the material in boxes. It's important too.
- Some textbooks have their own websites. Often these sites contain both interesting and useful material, including sample test questions. Try and do a few practice questions from each chapter.
- Some text books are sold with study guides. These may contain sample exercises and can be very useful.

5) Studying

We cannot reiterate enough the importance of **understanding** rather than memorizing. For example, a Math textbook may present two graphs, one with a function and the other with the derivative of that function. Then, when test time rolls around, your teacher may ask you to compare a function and its derivative. If you **understand** the material, you will be able to answer this question with ease. However, if you have only memorized the material, this question can give you a

tremendous amount of difficulty. At the CEGEP level, you are expected to be able to explain, analyze and synthesize information. You will not get by just by memorizing!

- **Set study goals.** Goals allow you to break down a large amount of material into more manageable pieces. Remember, Marianopolis is a challenging school. It is virtually impossible to get 100% on each test. "Strive for excellence, not perfection." (Prof. Skerry)
- **Make a study schedule suited to your learning habits.** If you are a morning person, try to study the hardest material in the morning.
- **Study in a specific place and away from distractions.** Make sure your study area has adequate lighting and is comfortable but not so comfy that you want to take a nap! The Cafeteria is a good place to meet your friends but probably not the best place to study. Likewise, studying outside may help your tan but probably won't help your grades. The Library is a great place to study.
- **Take short breaks.** If you find yourself getting tired while studying, do a few stretches, get a snack or take a short walk.
- **Study in short intervals.** Students often remember what they studied first and last. By studying in short 30-minute intervals, for example, rather than two-hour stretches, you will have more "beginnings" and "ends." (Prof. Skerry)
- **Avoid cramming.** Although this may have worked in high school, it is much harder in CEGEP where tests cover more material.
- **Prepare in advance.** You should know when most of your tests are by looking at your course outlines. If, in August, you see that during the week of October 20 you have four tests, make sure you allocate enough time to study for each test.
- **Study with a serious study partner,** not a goof-off, if you are into studying with others.
- **Test yourself.** Have a partner make up some questions for you and see if you can answer them. You may also ask your teacher for some extra problems, if necessary. Some textbooks contain practice questions with solutions and often the book has its own website with questions to try.
- **Reward yourself when you study.** After reading a chapter or completing 10 practice problems at the end of a chapter, for example, check out your favorite TV show or phone a friend and get caught up on the news.

6) Test-taking

At Marianopolis, courses often have two or three tests per semester and one final exam, cumulative or not. It is not unusual to have more than one test on the same day and many tests in the same week. To help you achieve the best possible test results, you should begin by:

- Reading the instructions carefully.

- Looking over the test once, to see how much each question is worth and how you should budget your time.
- Remembering to breathe comfortably.

In general, when writing the test:

- Try to be as neat as possible. Write legibly and number each question clearly.
- Budget your time. Look at how much a question is worth, and write your answer accordingly in terms of length, content and examples.
- Avoid second-guessing yourself.
- If you are unsure of an answer, don't dwell on that question. Leave it and move on. However, be sure to remember you left a question blank so you can return to it later. Sometimes information you need to help you answer a question will appear somewhere else in the test or exam. Also, once you start writing, you may recall the answer.

Writing multiple choice tests:

- Eliminate any answers you know are incorrect.
- Check for grammatical inconsistencies. For example, a question may refer to a single person but one answer may be phrased in the plural referring to more than one person. Obviously, in this case, the grammatical inconsistency will alert you that the answer is wrong.
- Before looking at the possible answers, try to answer the question yourself.
- If you do not know the answer, remember: answers with words such as "always" or "never" are often (but not always) wrong; answers that are qualified are often right. Qualified answers frequently have words such as "often" and "sometimes" included in them.
- Generally speaking, of the four possible answer choices: one answer will be obviously incorrect; one will appear correct if you haven't studied; one will be partially correct (however, it may not be the best answer, which is often what you will be asked to choose); and one will be correct.
- Avoid second-guessing your teacher. Don't think that if the teacher has put three correct A's in a row, that the next answer cannot be an A.
- Remember that research shows that students gain more than they lose by changing their first multiple-choice answer if they suspect that their initial answer is incorrect.

When writing an essay test:

- Read the instructions carefully before beginning.
- Look over the entire test and see how many questions you are required to answer.
- Read each question carefully, several times, and make sure you know exactly what is being asked of you.
- If time permits, make a brief outline listing any points you want to mention in your essay and in which paragraphs you want to mention them.

- When writing your essay, read back what you have written every few minutes to make sure you are on track and still answering the question.
- Make sure you write in paragraphs, with proper spelling and punctuation.
- Write legibly! If a teacher can't read your handwriting, he or she can't mark your essay. Besides, a neat answer will make a much better impression than a messy one.
- Use the vocabulary of the discipline when writing your essay.
- Do not pad your answers. You know what we mean!
- Where possible, try and give more detail than less, as long as the details you are giving are relevant and correct.
- Try to support your ideas with original examples, where possible.
- When you are finished your essay, make sure you read it over before you hand it in! Check for spelling, punctuation and sentence construction.
- If time is running out and you have a lot more to write, use point form for the remainder of the exam.
- Make use of all the time available.

When doing calculations (for those taking math):

- Make sure you lay out your calculation so your teacher can see what you have done. Even if your answer is wrong, there may be partial marks for intermediate steps.
- Watch out for signs, significant figures and units.
- Check to see if your answer makes sense.
- Make sure you copy the value from your calculator correctly onto your answer.

After the test:

- When you get your test back, go over it carefully and see your teacher, as soon as possible, if you have any questions.
- If your teacher asks to see you, go as soon as possible.
- Reflect on your results and where you could improve for the next test.

7) Time-management

- Remember the semester is only 16 weeks and the time will fly by. Teachers often move at a fast pace and it is very easy to fall behind. Make sure you do everything possible to stay on top of things.
- If you have the time to work on something, do it! You will only be busier later in the term.
- Because the majority of teachers give between two and three term tests a semester, not including final examinations, they often all fall within the same one- or two-week period. Ensure that you prepare in advance for this barrage of tests.
- In your program, there are rarely weekly assignments or quizzes with the exception of Math courses and Quantitative Methods. Therefore, when work does come around, it is often more substantial. It may be a paper, journal or

some other type of assignment. Do not get lazy the first few weeks of the term when it seems you do not have much work. It's coming, don't worry!

8) Preventing problems

Here are some warning signs that you may be in jeopardy of doing poorly in a course:

- Everyone in the class seems to grasp the concepts while you are still struggling.
- You are getting grades that disappoint or shock you.
- Your grades are well below the class average.
- You get a poor mid-term assessment report.
- You are unmotivated and skipping classes.
- If you are taking a course other than Latin or Greek and you don't understand what the teacher is saying, you need help!

The key here is anticipating problems, facing up to reality and doing something about it immediately! Be proactive, seek out help. Teachers are usually very glad to spend some time with a struggling student.

Some places to get help:

- **Your teacher:** The instructors are there to help you and they want you to succeed.
- **Department Chair:** If your teacher can't help you, for whatever reason, you can speak with the chair of the department. The chairs' names are listed in the Agenda.
- **The Associate Academic Dean:** The Associate Academic Dean deals with students who are on probation due to their poor academic standing and those who are experiencing extenuating circumstances that may affect their performance or course load. If you are a student with a serious illness or serious situation you should contact the office of the Dean as early as possible in the term; appointments can be made in Room A-209.
- **Adapted Services Counselor:** If you have a diagnosed disability you can arrange an appointment with the Adapted Services Counselor via [Omnivox](#). Disabilities include physical or psychological conditions, including but not limited to AD(H)D, Learning Disabilities, Dyslexia, Generalized Anxiety Disorder and Depression. Visit marianopolis.edu/accessability for additional information regarding the AccessAbility Services Centre.
- **Peer Tutoring:** This resource is offered in a variety of courses. Basically, it's students helping students and it has proven very helpful to those who need that extra bit of help. And best of all - it's free! Apply via

marianopolis.edu/peertutoring or visit the friendly staff at the Learning Resources Centre in Room F-317.

- **Counseling Services:** This strictly confidential service can help you with personal or family problems and with study skills, time-management and interpersonal relationships. Appointments can be made at Student Services. marianopolis.edu/counseling
- **Health Services:** If you are hurt or don't feel well, go to A-166, where the school nurse and the Marianopolis First Aid Team offer free care as well as health-related information.
- **Academic Advising:** Go here if you have questions regarding university requirements, program requirements, difficulties with courses, your overall course load or summer school. marianopolis.edu/academicadvising
- **Student Services:** If you don't know where to begin or whom you should see for help, Student Services is the place to go. If they can't help you, they will refer you to someone who can. They can also help you with minor problems like locker hassles or headaches (sometimes caused by locker hassles!). Student Services also sells some supplies and has a lost and found. If you have lost your textbook or your calculator, check at Student Services. It may be waiting for you there. marianopolis.edu/studentervices
- **What's Up:** This aptly named newsletter is published every Monday and is a guide to what's up at the College that week. In addition to information about clubs, sports and other student life activities, it has important academic information including announcements concerning various deadlines and Honours presentations. Study skills workshops and Learning Resources Centre activities are also listed. The College assumes you will check it out and read it carefully. marianopolis.edu/whats-up

9) Resources

Marianopolis has a wide variety of resources at your disposal. Use them! And remember to have your Marianopolis ID card with you at all times on campus.

Library: The Marianopolis Library has over 50,000 books, periodicals, films, CDs and other material that students need to do their projects, papers and assignments. The Library's [online offerings](#) are your gateway to electronic databases where you can access journals, newspaper articles, books, reference articles, films and art work. The Library is a wireless environment, so bring

your laptop or use one of the Library computers. There are also photocopiers and printer. In addition, the Library is a wonderful place to study and to start when you need to do research. If you need help finding a book or want to learn how to use the journal databases, don't hesitate to ask the friendly librarians for help. The Librarians can also show you how to properly cite work and thereby avoid plagiarism, which is a serious offense. For more information about plagiarism, read the [Institutional Policy for the Evaluation of Student Achievement](#) (IPESA).

Omnivox: marianopolis.omnivox.ca is where you can book appointments with Academic Advisors, view your course schedule, access documents, get assignments posted by teachers, check your grades, and contact teachers and fellow students via Messaging in Omnivox (MIO). It is highly recommended that students check Omnivox at least once a day to read any MIOs or access assignments posted by their teachers.

TLT (A-358) - Teaching & Learning Technologies: This is where you can find digital video cameras, digital cameras, video editing equipment (iMacs), voice recorders, boomboxes, portable amplifiers, microphones, USB memory keys and more. You can book equipment [online](#) and find the Language Lab, which can be used when it is free.

Computer labs: Any word-processing, printing or internet research can be done in the two computer labs located on the fourth floor. Always have your Student ID with you while in the labs. Make sure to check the schedules outside the labs to see when they are free.

Fitness facilities: Many students find that working out can reduce a lot of their stress. Marianopolis has a fitness center, spacious and contemporary dance studio and double gymnasium. The fitness facilities are open to all Marianopolis students. Before you decide to workout, be sure to check for the available free times, which are posted by the facilities.

10) HAVE FUN!

There is so much more to Marianopolis than just classes, assignments and final exams. **Don't forget to have fun and make friends.** Just don't lose sight of your ultimate academic goals! Marianopolis has dozens of clubs, activities and sports teams. In addition, there are trips during spring break, end-of-semester parties, talent shows, plays, special lectures and much more. To find out more about any activity at Marianopolis, check out at Student Services, watch for flyers posted around the school and consult [What's Up](#).

Contrary to popular belief

Social Science and Commerce are challenging.

- A Marianopolis degree in Social Science, including Commerce, opens doors to fascinating careers as serves as an excellent background for fields such as law and business.
- Being in Social Science does not mean “no more math.” Although the Social Science program does not require you to take any math courses, it does require you to take a Quantitative Methods course, as well as an Economics course. Both of these courses require you to have basic math skills. You can also speak with an Academic Advisor about a profile that includes math.

Everyone will struggle at one point or another.

- Enough said!

You need to retain much of the material that you learn in your courses.

- Many courses build upon one another. For example, you need to have a good foundation in Macroeconomics to do well in Microeconomics. Within a given course, a grasp of the early material is often essential to the understanding of subsequent material. Spend some time reviewing notes from a previous course at the start of the new term.
- In order to obtain your DEC, you must pass a course called The Integrative Project. In this course, you research a topic and analyze it from a Social Science perspective drawing on a minimum of two Social Science disciplines. During your first three semesters, try to think of topics that might interest you, so that you will have some possible ideas in mind for this course.
- In addition, during the final examination period in May of your fourth semester, you must also pass the *Épreuve synthèse*. This exam requires you to read a number of articles on a particular topic and then write an analytical essay on this issue. You will use the articles and combine different models, theories, paradigms and concepts from two or more social science disciplines in your essay. You can find helpful information by searching for *Épreuve synthèse* at marianopolis.sirsidynix.net.
- The Integrative Project and the *Épreuve synthèse* provide an opportunity for you to demonstrate that you can apply what you have learned in Social Science and Commerce to an actual issue. In other words, you have to think!
- All students must also pass an **English Exit Exam** from the Ministry of Education. This is done after completing your third English course. For further details, speak to your English teacher.

The first and last classes of a course are very important.

- During the first couple of classes in a course, the teachers hand out the course outline, as well as discuss what the course requirements are and

what is expected of you. It is at this time when you really need to buckle down because if you let yourself fall behind at such an early stage, it will become more and more difficult to catch up. This is the time to establish good study habits and to get organized.

- The last few classes are also crucial because teachers will generally discuss the format of the final exam and what it will cover. They may also review material that they believe to be important and that may be on the exam.

The course outline is not useless!

- The course outline is a valuable tool to help you plan your semester. It contains important information such as test dates, due dates for assignments and the two possible grading schemes in Science courses. The course outline may also tell you your teacher's office hours, phone extension and email address. Finally, objectives and expectations are outlined here. Remember that teachers set tests and exams that reflect these objectives and expectations.

Students should not rely too heavily on one marking scheme.

- In all of your Science courses you will have two marking schemes. Your final grades will be determined by the most favorable scheme. It is important not to rely solely on the marking scheme that weighs the final exam heavily (and consequently puts less emphasis on midterms). You should try your best during the semester to do well on the midterms and assignments in case you do poorly on the final exam.

The teacher does not fail "you" on your test.

- Teachers are professionals who for the most part have evaluated the work of many students before you. The mark assigned reflects their evaluation of the work you submitted and not of you as a person. If you did not do well on an evaluation, meet with your teacher to plan what you can do to improve next time.

You don't have to like a teacher or a course to do well.

- While it's nice when you have the ideal teacher or are in your favorite course, it cannot always be. Sometimes your teacher's teaching style does not match your learning style. Don't get discouraged or frustrated. Persist and persevere! Use the textbook or find a study partner. Don't drop the course or fail it just because you do not like the teacher or the material. Repeating a course you failed will not be more fun.

Getting into Marianopolis does not guarantee success. You will have to work hard.

- Having done very well in high school with little work does not necessarily mean that you will do as well at Marianopolis with an equal amount of effort.

- Marianopolis is a post-secondary institution that prepares students for university. You will therefore be treated more like a university student, rather than a high school student. Likewise, **college-level work** will be expected from you.

Good luck and have a wonderful experience at Marianopolis!

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Books

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Fraser, L. (1996). *Making your mark* (5th ed.). Port Perry: LDF Publishing Inc.

Handouts

Marianopolis College Student Services: Concentration tips

Marianopolis College Student Services: Exam preparation

Marianopolis College Student Services: How do I remember all this

material? Marianopolis College Student Services: How to manage your

time Marianopolis College Student Services: Stress management basics

Marianopolis College Student Services: 10 suggestions for good note taking

Skerry, S. *Becoming a better student*.