Success Tips from a Student who Knows

By Linda Mullally, class of 2012

Throughout the course of your college career, there may be a semester or two that results in academic performance with which you are not happy. There are ways to bounce back, lessen the damage, and make a fresh start!

- **Moving forward from the negativity about a poor semester:**
  - have a positive attitude: realize that your grades are entirely dependent on your actions (studying, homework, keeping up with reading etc.)
  - reflect on the study methods you use on your first assignment, make adjustments where necessary. Read professor’s feedback and go to office hours
  - work with your professor; let them know if you are having difficulty
    - If the professor is challenging to contact – don't give up and think it's hopeless! Work with an advisor, peers, tutors, etc. to make sure your grade stays high!
    - Do not blame a professor or anyone else for your bad grades. Your attitude will impact your performance in that class!

- **Initial actions to improve GPA**
  - Go to my advisor to see how to bring up my GPA as soon as you become concerned. Don’t wait until you are on probation!
  - create a course of action: repeat classes and create a balanced schedule which includes courses of high interest

- **Keep organized and stay on task!**
  - Make a schedule of exams and assignments, and check it daily or weekly
  - Keep all exams, papers etc., and reflect on them for improvement
  - Take advantage of study aides provided by the school or professor

**Important things to keep in mind:**
- Have a positive attitude and learn from past papers/exams you did poorly on
- Only focus on yourself in the class; don't compare your grades/study time to those of other students
- Don't give up!