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### Bluegrass Community and Technical College





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# Getting the Most Out Of Your Summer

The spring semester is over, grades are posted and your summer break is in full swing! Many of you have started enjoying a welldeserved summer break. The summer months can be both enjoyable and productive: it can be an ideal time to contribute to your college success. Students have many choices as to how to spend their summer. Some students take time to relax and re-group; others take classes, work or both. If you are still trying to decide how best to spend your break, here are a few suggestions for getting the most out of your summer.

Many students forgo a break and take classes during one of the summer sessions. Some students see the summer as a chance to lighten their academic load during the fall and spring semesters. For others, summer is an opportunity to earn their degree more quickly or to re -take courses from the academic year. It is important to remember that summer courses are condensed classes. Class sessions are longer, terms are shorter, and course material is covered at a much faster rate. Take

summer courses only if you are academically prepared for the rigorous pace and you have enough time to devote to your coursework.

Summer is also an ideal time to learn outside of the classroom. There are lots of ways to continue your education even if you don't register for any courses. Use the summer as an opportunity to build skills you will need to be successful in the future. If you hate math, but know that you will be taking College Algebra in the fall, brush up on your basic math skills over the summer. Visit the tutoring center to get help in areas that need improvement. Get a head start on your fall classes: review textbooks and available syllabi. Make an appointment to meet with your SSS Educational Advisor. They can help you in a variety of ways by discussing your academic goals, career exploration, providing assistance with academic probation, SAP appeals and academic advising. Set yourself up for future success by spending a little time now while you have it during the summer break.

For more ideas on how to

spend your summer break, see page 3

Tania Crawford Gross, SSS Director

Compiled from the website About.Com College Life



## Student Spotlight

Congratulations for all of your accomplishments this semester. SSS would like to recognize the following achievements of some of it's participants in the 2011-12 academic year:

Jessica King, Haylee Smoot, Tyler Anderson, Ezra Dorsey, and Tanesha Aton, Sumayya Rashid May and August graduations.

Stephen Anderson, Amanda York and Amanda Anderson were accepted into the Associate Degree Nursing Program for fall 2012.

# Tips for On-Line Learners

"A common misconception is that online courses are easier." If you are thinking about taking an online class or you have taken one and may not have reached the level of success you would have liked, these tips are for you. Here are a few things you need to take into consideration before attempting an online course.

Have direct access to a computer and Internet connection. The classroom is accessed through the Web. You must have access to a computer with a reliable internet connection to take part in the classroom. Must be comfortable expressing yourself in writing. In the online classroom nearly all communication is written. Must be self-motivated and self-disciplined. With the freedom and flexibility of the online environment comes

responsibility. The online process takes a real commitment and discipline to keep up with the work and the online process.

Must "speak up" if problems arise. Many of the non-verbal communication clues that instructors use in determining whether students are having problems (confusion, frustration, boredom, absence, etc.) are not possible in an online class. If you are experiencing difficulty on any level (either with the technology or with the course content), you must communicate this immediately. Otherwise the instructor will never know what is wrong.

Must commit 5-10 hours per week per course. A common miscon-

ception is that online courses are easier. Online learning is not easier than the traditional educational process. In many courses it may require more time and commitment from students.

Must value high quality learning outside the traditional classroom.

An online learner should expect to:

- 1. Participate in the online class-room 3-5 days a week
- 2. Respond to classmate's ideas and questions
- 3. Use technology properly
- 4. Complete assignments on time
- 5. Enjoy communicating in writing.



In an effort to help students be more aware of BCTC policies, we will be including excerpts from the college catalog and other Bluegrass publications. Below you will find important information about academic probation and suspension. Please be aware that these policies are separate from the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).

BCTC 2011-12 College Catalog Academic Probation, Academic Suspension, and Reinstatement

Grade Point Average (GPA) The academic probation and academic suspension systems are based on grade point average.

Academic Probation A student earning a cumulative grade point average below a 2.0 at the end of a term is placed on academic probation. A student is removed from academic probation by earning at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average.

Academic Suspension (dismissal) If a student is placed on academic probation for two consecutive terms (which is noted on the transcript as —subject to dismissall the second time) and does not earn either a cumulative GPA or a term GPA of at least a 2.0 in the third term, the student is academically suspended. Nonenrollment has no effect on probation status. The President of BCTC may grant an exception based upon an individual's case. A student on academic suspension may not enroll in any courses offered for degree credit by KCTCS.

Reinstatement A student who has been academically suspended may be reinstated by the Academic Suspension and Probation Committee after remaining out of the college for at least one 16-week semester and after providing evidence of ability to perform at the level required.

A student who has been academically suspended shall, upon reinstatement, be placed on academic probation and will be subject to academic suspension if he or she fails to earn a current term GPA of 2.0 during the first term of reinstatement. Upon a second suspension, a student may be reinstated by the Academic Suspen-

sion and Probation Committee after remaining out of the college for at least two 16-week semesters and providing evidence of ability to perform at the level required.





### More Ideas for Getting the Most Out Of Your Summer

- 1.Read a new release book. It can be science fiction, general fiction, trashy romance, murder mystery, historical fiction but it doesn't matter. Grab the latest release and let your brain take a break.
- 2.Read a classic. Always hearing about a classic book one of your friends or family members loves? Been curious about a novel you never read in high school? Summer is the perfect chance to finally sit down and read it.
- 3.Volunteer. Think of the last time you volunteered. Didn't you feel great afterward? No matter where you live, there's undoubtedly places that could use your time, energy, and smarts.
- 4.Try a new form of exercise. Been curious about yoga, Pilates, spinning, or something else? The summer is a great time to explore something new and see if it's a fit.
- 5.Learn an instrument. You may have always had a desire to play the piano, learn the flute, or even play the drums. Why not learn now when you have the time and freedom to really put your heart into it?
- 6.Go camping. Camping during the school year can be a challenge, both because of your workload and because of the weather. Utilize all that summer has to offer for the great outdoors.
- 7.Try a new kind of food or restaurant. Heard people talk about how delicious Peruvian food is, for example? Or have you always been secretly afraid to try sushi? Challenge

- yourself to try something new (to you).
- 8.Go through your old stuff and donate what you don't use or need. Do you have things for 2 lives: your college life and your pre-college life? Someone somewhere will probably be grateful for all of those sweatshirts and t-shirts you're no longer using.
- 9.Try your hand at creative writing. You can try to write poems, a short story, or even music. You never know what you might come up with when you have the time and freedom to really let your mind explore!
- 10.Go to a play. It doesn't have to be Shakespeare but it should be fun. When was the last night you went to the theater -- not for a class -- anyway?
- 11.Go to a major sports game.

  Baseball, basketball, soccer—
  it doesn't matter. Grab some
  friends and head to the stadium.
- 12.Go to a minor sports game. Things like minor league baseball games can be incredibly fun and much cheaper

- than the big leagues. See who's around your town and when you can watch them play.
- 13.Take a dance class. Feel awkward when you go out clubbing with friends? A dance class can help, even if it's something funky like swing or salsa.
- 14.Clean up your e-life. Super fun? Probably not. Will you feel better afterward? Most definitely. Dump your old Facebook friends, clean up your laptop desktop, and delete old pictures you don't want --or would hate to get in the wrong hands -- from your camera or phone. A clean e-slate is a great way to start your new year.
- 15.Organize an event at your church, temple, mosque, etc. If you're a little bored this summer, chances are others are, too. Organize something fun with people you have

something in common with.

For more ideas check out the website About.Com College Life: 50 Ways To Stay Entertained Over A College Summer







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