What Are All the Problems and How Can I Fix Them?

When you decided to come to Columbus State, you had an educational goal in mind for yourself. Just like with any goal an unforeseen roadblock may have come up in your path. The problems we see most frequently include items related to financing college, study skills, college readiness, lack of time, or personal problems.

The first step towards overcoming your problem is to identify what your roadblock is and then come up with various approaches to get past this issue. Know that with some help, most students are able to get past their roadblocks and keep going towards their goal! Some students have also indicated that it helps them to think back to other life problems they have encountered and the strategies they used then to solve these problems. Often they were able to use these same skills with their current situation or use the experience to keep a positive perspective of what can be achieved. Look over the following questions and then schedule an appointment to talk over your situation with an academic advisor:

**THE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE**

1. What are your strengths as a student? What went well for you with past academic experiences? What has gone well for you as a Columbus State student?
2. What have you done to prepare yourself to be a successful student?
3. What kind of support network do you have at Columbus State? Outside of Columbus State?
4. What are your long range goals? How is college a part of those goals? Why are you in college? What do you hope to achieve?
5. What distracts you from studying? Or attending class? How can you remove these distractions?

**STUDY SKILLS/TIME MANAGEMENT**

6. Study skills are skills like anything else. They can be improved upon with practice. What has given you trouble in the past? Is it tests, quizzes, homework, reading? How can you develop your skills in these areas like you have learned skills in other areas of your life?
7. Did you take advantage of the many free resources on campus to help with such things as tutoring, personal problems, and learning disabilities?
8. Do you use a planner or to-do-list to keep track of your assignments, tests, quizzes etc.?
9. Where do you study? Is there a better place that you could try to study?

**LIFE OUTSIDE OF CLASS**

10. What are your other life priorities? (Examples might include work or family obligations) Where is college on that priority list? What are you able to give up for a while in your life just until you finish college? What can be moved further down on your priority list just until college is over?
11. Did you have any special circumstances that prevented you from being able to go to class (illness, hospitalization, death in the family)? Do you know about Administrative Withdrawal?
12. Have you considered attending school part-time?
13. Are you aware of child care resources on campus?
14. Do you have access to health care and health care providers locally

**YOUR CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE**

15. How has your college experience been the same or different from high school? What has surprised you about college? What about studying or being a student do you need help with now that you are in college?
16. What is your learning style? Do the types of courses you are taking match that learning style? (Examples include on-line courses, how often in a week you take a class, the types of classes you take together)
17. What about the course content has given you trouble?
18. Did you talk with your instructors about how you were doing in their class?
19. Do you try to balance difficult classes with easier ones? Which are difficult, and which are easy for you?

**PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE**

20. What is in your control that you could have done differently?
21. What future challenges do you foresee that you will face?
22. Are you in a better situation now to be successful? What has changed? Are you ready to come back to school?
23. Are you aware of financial aid, and how to use it to help you with school cost? Do you know where you stand with regard to financial aid eligibility?

In addition to speaking with an advisor about the above issues, know that in order to be successful academically you will need to:

1. Attend all classes, except in cases of emergency such as illness. In these cases you should contact your instructor immediately and come up with a plan to make up any missed work.
2. Keep track of your grade progress at all times, including assignment due dates and test and quiz dates.
3. Meet with your instructor immediately if you experience any difficulty in the class.
4. Meet with an Academic Advisor at least once to determine your next semester’s classes and see an advisor immediately if anything occurs that may affect your academic success.
5. Utilize campus resources that will help you be successful.
6. Make college a life priority while you are a student.