Your Road to Success ….

Improving Bad Grades

Do not accept failure! There is still time to bring up your final grade. Sometimes a good grade on a project or exam can increase your final grade significantly, especially if your instructor knows you are trying.

Here are some tips to help you improve poor grades:

1. Review all of your class assignments, exams, papers, etc. to determine the reason you earned a low grade. Was it careless errors, poor grammar or writing habits? Did you focus more on studying lecture notes when you should have spent time reading the textbook? If you are not sure what you are doing wrong, meet with your instructor and ask him/her what you can do differently.

2. Ask about extra credit opportunities. Before you approach your instructor with this question, read your syllabus to learn if these opportunities exist. If the syllabus does not discuss extra credit, then visit with your instructor to determine possible options. Do not expect that extra credit will be available, but it does not hurt to ask.

3. Take advantage of academic support services:
   - **Student Athlete Academic Center** – tutoring, academic coaching program, meetings with your Academic Counselor.
   - **The Learning Center (Lee Hall)** – tutoring, study groups, supplemental instruction.
   - **The Math Lab (MDD Rm. 111)** – one-on-one assistance with your math class.
   - **The Writing Center (HLG Rm. 107)** – one-on-one assistance with your writing assignments.

4. Get serious! Attend every class and be on time. Use study hall effectively by devoting your time to academic responsibilities only.

5. Review your schedule. Eliminate or limit extracurricular activities that interfere with your academic goals (e.g. club sports, unnecessary shopping excursions, etc.). You may need to make some tough decisions on how you spend your free time.

6. Be good to yourself! Give yourself credit if you are trying your best. Identify your strong points and make the best of them. Take care of your body and mind by getting adequate rest, eating healthy, and exercising.

Always seek out the help you need to succeed!