

Academic related skills for success

Academic related skills for success within college students

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### **Intro Paragraph**

In today's world, many factors whether inside or outside of school can affect a student's academic success. High school and college can be some of the most important times in a young adult's life. What determines a person's success and achievement academically can be a result anywhere from their social relationships, to their study habits, to their sleep routine, etc. To discover and retrieve data based on a person's academic success, Mr. Pooles engineering class conducted a multiple choice survey for High Tech High Chula Vista's alumni to answer. Based on these surveys, the class will find out the similarities and differences between the students and how they perform as a scholar and socialize and perform as an individual. The data retrieved will help us as a class further understand and educate others on how college retention is kept and lost in a school. This can help us as a school try to solve problems within our school and better it as a whole. This project can also help us challenge real world situations and put our skills to work to better improve the community or our own lives.

### Findings

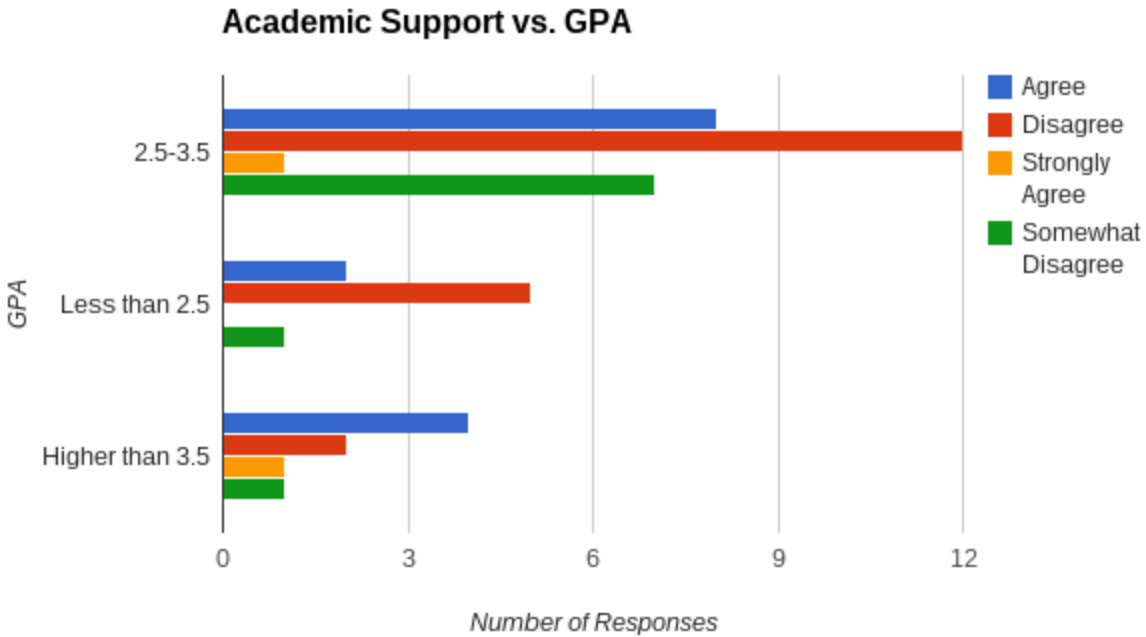
Being an academically successful scholar is the key component to maintaining a great higher education and avoiding college retention. During this portion of our project, the main goal was to retrieve data or “findings” that struck an interest or unusual connection pertaining to our focus area. We started off by using Google spreadsheets to organize and figure out all the needed data. This process was a two week period that took a lot of time and effort from everyone. I first had to look up two questions from the surveys question list that were either both similar to my focus area, or I could pick one question that was similar to my focus area and one that wasn’t. From that I then transferred the questions answers to the chi squared page and receive my numbers that would mathematically help me find out if either of the questions are independent or dependent. When the results ended up being dependent this meant that the two number results were connected in some way and has an effect on each other. But when the results are independent, this meant that the two number results were not relevant and shows no correlation with each other.

My first finding was that college students who regularly attend academic support meetings in college do not improve their GPA at all. The questions I chose were 37 and 73. Question 37 was “what is your current GPA?” and 73’s was “ Do you regularly attend academic support meetings?”.

Down below is to demonstrate how I found out my chi squared results for my first finding mathematically:

QA	QB	DF	X	X 00.50	IN or D?
73	37	9	2.06	16.919	Independent

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(Graph above showing data for first finding)

The first two, or question A and B are obviously the questions I chose. DF is short for degrees of freedom. The chi squared or  $\chi^2$  represents the number result from the two questions and the  $\chi^2_{0.05}$  is the number that determines the correlation between the 2 questions and whether their relationship is dependent or independent. This finding is important because we can educate future college students that attending tutor or academic support meetings has little to no effect on improving your GPA. It all depends on yourself and your school work ethic.

My second finding basically stated that people who find their families the most motivating factor of succeeding in college and are homesick do not become more motivated to succeed despite the fact that their family is what drives them. The questions that I chose were 62 and 66. Question 62 was "Do you feel homesick while in college?", and 66 was "Does your family motivate you to succeed the most?". Down below is to demonstrate how I found out my chi squared results for my second finding mathematically:

QA	QB	DF	X	X 00.50	IN or D?
62	66	9	6.09	16.919	Independent

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This finding is important because despite the fact that you're homesick, it doesn't help you become more motivated to succeed in college because of your family. This again just goes to show that staying in college and keeping up with your grades all goes down to yourself and how much passion you have for your future.

My third finding was that having a good social relationship with your teacher and taking notes have no relevance to each other. The questions I chose were 57 and 64. Question 57 asks, "Do you have a close relationship with your teacher?" and 64 states "How motivated are you to go to class?". Down below is to demonstrate how I found out my chi squared results for my third finding mathematically:

QA	QB	DF	X	X 00.50	IN or D?
57	64	9	4.31	16.919	Independent

This finding is important because it shows that having a close relationship with your professor and being motivated to go to your class even though you are close with your teacher has no correlation to each other. This can help future college students because it is good to communicate and be close to your college professors but if you aren't motivated to go to your classes it's either because they aren't interesting or other social/personal factors. It's important while in college to pick a class you will enjoy being in.

These three findings above tell me that some questions are dependent when they connect with each other while the findings I got were independent. In the end it all depends on yourself as an individual and what you think is your top priority in achieving academic success.

### **Annotated Bibliography**

Almost one half of U.S. students receiving B.S. and M.S. science degrees attend community colleges during their academic careers, yet for the large majority of community college students in the sciences, a four-year degree in a STEM discipline remains an unrealized goal. The authors describe methods intended to improve student learning, retention, and graduation rates of community college students in English and the sciences. This is a useful piece of text because it acts as a guideline for administrators on how to improve learning and retention in community college students in both English and Science. This article was helpful to me because it gave statistical numbers and survey examples to show their data similar to our project. It was also very informative with the information that it provided, making reading the piece very clear. This article helped me shape my literature review because it was organized and thought out clear and that was how I wanted to approach and write my review. I can use this source in my research project because it discusses similar topics as ours such as ways to improve your students academics, classroom environment changes and retention. The text I read made me think that my topic which was academic related skills is a very important component to this project because being a student and having skills that you have required to enhance your performance academically are essential to being a successful student.

Throughout the country, mandates that require community colleges to assess and improve their performance through reliable and valid effectiveness measures have increased and intensified. Legislators and the public are insistent that community colleges demonstrate accountability for tax dollars and those student outcomes should reflect public investments. Without significant input from the community colleges that they affect, however, policymakers can create external mandates counterproductive to the data community colleges use as critical indicators of effectiveness. This source is useful in my research because just like my article, Austin's talks about college retention and classroom improvement in community college. This source is helpful because it uses the method of research chosen for this study was the Delphi technique. This method was selected because it can be used to gain consensus where geography limits the practicality of face-to-face discussions and when anonymity is desired. This helps me shape my argument because it shows how to prevent college

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retention in community college which is what we are discussing in the project as a whole. I didn't use this source in my lit review but I can imagine that it did help Austin with his.

### Conclusion Paragraph

Throughout this class experiment our findings and data we retrieved numerically, mathematically and with old/present HTHCV students can contribute to help future college students or HTHCV administrators. With these interesting findings we can show and suggest on how to improve or achieve a higher standard in the classroom both in primary and higher education. The data I collected suggests that thinking, acting and taking advantage of some things that school offers students such as academic support meetings, tutoring classes/clubs and in class note taking has no beneficial or detrimental impact on your GPA. I also found out through my research that if you have a personal relationship with your teachers and some drive to succeed in college, it is beneficial to your well being and overall education. From my research some suggestions I have that might be helpful from this study for teachers are three simple rules that I think can improve the class. One, make in class note taking optional. Some students don't find notetaking useful or helpful at all and perform well academically without them. Also, to only allow academic support meetings for students with any grade lower than a C. This can ensure that the students who are in a desperate need for help can really get it. Lastly, if there are any tests coming up, to create a pretest for the class a couple of days prior to the actual test can ensure that the students will be prepared for the test.

This survey and study however did have many limitations to the amount of people who responded. We only used facebook to contact HTHCV graduates and only 10 percent responded to the survey. Despite having a limited amount of people doing the survey we as a class did retrieve enough data to help us question what we can do to help improve the classroom atmosphere and students academic success. Some possible steps for further research and to get more people involved is to contact graduates via personal email or other social media sites such as twitter. Also, for the students who will be continuing this project to pick a different topic related to education such as high school dropout rates or the pros and cons between public and charter high schools. This experiment helped me personally on how I am going to approach college when I enter in the fall with perseverance and dedication!



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### **Work Cited**

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- Larson, E., & Wissman, J. R. (2000). Critical Academic Skills for Kansas