Sometimes students get so caught up in studying; they forget some of the obvious steps to achieving high grades. Below you will find a list of 18 suggestions, from Claude W. Olney, JD’s “Where There’s a will There’s An A” seminar. These suggestions will help you improve your college performance.

1. Go to class. Do some fast math. Figure out how much each lab and lecture costs you or your parents. The price, alone, should inspire you to get up for that 8am class.
2. Take subjects you enjoy. Believe it or not, college should be fun – your classes as well as your social life. If you look carefully, you can find interesting required or “core” courses.
3. Preview instructors. Students who have been there before you know the good teachers. Ask and you shall find.
4. Register on time. Those who wait until the last minute may lose out on the classes they want.
5. Buy the textbook before class begins. Get a jump start by getting the text and reading the first 50 pages or so before the first class.
6. Pour it on the first two weeks. Over study to get off to a great start. When you begin with the As on quizzes or assignments, you get a taste of success. This builds confidence and keeps you pumping through the semester.
7. Never miss a class!!! Good attendance pays off. “A” Students, on average, missed less than one class per 45 class-semester, while “C” students were out more than four classes in the same semester.
8. Never miss extra credit work. It’s not “extra” if everyone can do it. Do extra credit routinely. This often means the difference between an A and a B.
9. Practice taking tests to improve your performance. The more you practice the better you’ll do.
10. Turn in your homework on time, neatly done and edited. Make every page perfect. This tip also improves your typing skills.
11. Practice memory strategies
12. Drop a course if it is not working out after the first week. Familiarize yourself with your school policy on this, but don’t be afraid of what people will say if you drop a course. Dropping gives you the option to start that course again later when you are better prepared for it or add a different course right then. Don’t get penalized with a poor grade for a poor class choice.
13. Mark what you don’t know instead of what you do know when you study chapters in your textbooks.
14. Stay fit and eliminate bad habits. You’ll get more out of your college experience if you feel good.
15. Check with your instructor during the semester concerning your grade. Asking shows interest.
16. When taking exams, write as much as you know for an essay exam because volume does pay.
17. In a multiple choice test, “All of the Above” can be a good guess.
18. Don’t take that lower-than-hoped-for grade at face value. Fight for the close ones.