

College Success: A Concise Practical Guide (7th ed). Book by Davide L. Strickland and Carol J. Strickland

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Capturing the interests of undergraduate freshman/first-year experience college students and keeping them engaged during a semester course is incredibly challenging. However, Strickland and Strickland [1] textbook, *College Success: A Concise Practical Guide* (7th ed.), with its student-friendly format and learner-centered approach to reaching students throughout the semester, is a wonderful tool to help students transition from high school to college.

The author's comprehensive textbook is designed for a full semester course but can also be used effectively as part of an orientation program or even by the individual student. The textbook is accompanied by available instructional resource supplements such as chapter-by-chapter instructor's manual, PowerPoint slides, test bank, quiz bank, homework bank, and online course management software to create randomly generated tests. Moreover, it comes with online student resources that include a two-week instant access eBook, practice quizzes, and flashcards.

The textbook publisher website explains how the chapters are broken down according to their educational goals. For example:

Each chapter begins with a chapter roadmap (including a brief chapter summary, chapter learning goals, and a study checklist) and a critical thinking activity. Reading comprehension questions are embedded throughout each chapter; these are specifically designed to help students access and improve their knowledge, literal comprehension, inferential comprehension, and analytic skills. Links to online resources that complement the chapters are also provided. Each chapter concludes with study guide pages, learning activities, and practical

assignments, which provide valuable experiences and enrichment for students.

The underlying educational goals aim to help students:

- Make the all-important transitions to a university culture of scholarship.
- Adopt the role of a life-long scholar as their predominant identity.
- Take responsibility for their own learning outcomes.
- Develop high-level skills in comprehension and analysis.
- Learn how to create effective study materials from the stated learning objectives.
- Develop the habit of properly preparing for class.
- Become comfortable and effective interacting in a higher-education setting.
- Develop critical thinking skills beyond the high school level.

Academic success in college is essential for first-year college students to develop the necessary skills needed to graduate and to have a rewarding career after college. Strickland and Strickland [1] textbook serves as a great resource for students that need help adjusting to college by taking ownership and responsibility for their education.

This book is extremely useful and would be a great tool to integrate into any freshman course to teach students the skills necessary to succeed. It has research-based yet highly readable, innovative, and practical information that makes learning about college as easy, efficient, and effective as possible.

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I recommend this textbook to instructors as a tool to provide general information to first-year College students that can help them transition by being better organized and better prepared and by having a plan.

REFERENCE

1. Strickland, D. L., & Strickland, C. J. (2017). *College Success: A Concise Practical Guide* (7th ed.). BVT Publishing.

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