

Applying Competition Talents in Academics

These insights and action ideas can help you apply Competition talents to achieve in various aspects of your academic life.

General Academic Life

- Regard grades as your scorecard. Invest more effort in classes where the results of tests, papers, and projects are posted for all to see.
- Monitor your grade-point average by the week, month, or academic term. Compare your class ranking to that of your closest rivals. Realize that striving for the highest GPA leads you to excel.
- Clarify how professors weight class participation, final exams, presentations, laboratory experiments, and research projects. Continuously monitor your grades and class standing.
- Study your opponents — that is, your classmates. Identify each one's strengths. Evaluate their study strategies. Continually compare your results to theirs.

Study Techniques

- Seek out highly competitive people and study with them. Know that you will push each other to learn more, faster. Figure out how to manage the inevitable undercurrent of tension that will exist.
- Pit yourself against a fellow student to increase your chances of being the first person to finish the paper, test, or project.
- Establish measurable and meaningful academic goals. Use these to force yourself to reach the highest levels of productivity, mastery, or quality.
- Identify the best students in your classes or major area of study. Investigate what they routinely do to be number one.
- Quiz your professors about their criteria for earning the highest grades in their classes. Explain that you aim to understand the material better than anyone else in the class.

Relationships

- Intentionally surround yourself with competitive people.
- Aim to know something special about every person in the class by the end of the first month. Use these insights to your advantage when you vie against them.
- Help classmates understand that you are hardwired to have the last word in casual conversation, classroom discussion, or formal debate.

Class Selection

- Apply at universities and departments within universities where admission standards are highly competitive. Make sure that objective, meaningful, and measurable criteria are used to determine who is selected.

- Take advanced-level classes to enhance the odds of winning important academic scholarships, grants, internships, and fellowships.
- Select instructors who encourage rivalry between students.

Extracurricular Activities

- Try out for the debate or speech team. Audition for a play, first chair in a section of the orchestra, or a featured dancing role.
- Play competitive sports. Risk being a walk-on to win a spot on an athletic team.
- Check your department's bulletin boards for opportunities to enter contests. Gravitate to contests sponsored by student and professional organizations in your major area of study.
- Run for leadership positions such as student senate, class president, club officer, or sorority/fraternity chairs. Campaign to win.

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