

**Kingsborough Community College**  
**The City University of New York**  
**Syllabus - SD 12**

**Student Development 12: *Strategies for College Success* (1 credit; 1 hour)**

The course focuses on:

- exploring and developing the cognitive, emotional and behavioral skills necessary to achieve college success.
- providing tools to understand potential academic problems
- understanding study-skill deficits
- developing time management techniques and skills
- learning awareness of varied learning styles, relating critical thinking to student development, and establishing career goals.

**Catalog Description:** This course is designed to help high school students recognize the typical problems encountered in college and the strategies to overcome difficulties. The Student Development 12 class is a performance-based approach, which emphasizes not only understanding, but also how to make appropriate changes in academic behavior.

**College Now Description:** This course helps students learn how to assess their personal academic strengths and weaknesses, and to examine internal and external barriers to academic success, as well as general life difficulties.

**SD 12 Core Competencies:**

Self-Assessment

Decision Making

Communication Skills

Goal Setting

Cultural Competence

Independence

College Resources

Learning Styles

Study Skills

Time Management

Research Skills

Utilization of Technology

**Course Objective:** This course enables students having academic difficulties to explore and develop the cognitive, emotional and behavioral skills necessary to achieve college success. Students will be provided with tools to understand potential academic problems, study-skill deficits, time management techniques, awareness of varied learning styles, relating critical

thinking to student development, and establishing career goals. Instructors will also enable students to develop meaningful and realistic educational and career goals.

**Topical Course Outline:** The above core competencies and objectives will be achieved by addressing the following content areas: Overview of the course, self-assessment, decision-making and goal setting, planning for the future, and other important skills for college success.

These topics, described below under course outline, are seen as essential to the SD 12 curriculum and thus coverage of these areas is required. In addition to the required topics, optional topics to be considered, as time permits, based on needs and interest of the particular group of students, may include:

***Course Materials and Unit Plans available at:***

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1YX7PmIDl7a36Eu0nojaVe97cMRADBlo4>

**Week 1-2:**

Introduction to SD 12 and Competency # 1: Self- Assessment and Communication Skills

Students will be able to/ understand or know...

- 1- How to identify their personal strengths and areas for growth.
- 2- How to leverage their areas of strength and interest in both academic and professional pursuits.
- 3- How to address areas for growth by seeking support to hone skills.
- 4- How to communicate salient information about themselves in speaking and writing.

**Weeks 3-4:**

Competency # 2: Decision Making and Goal Setting

Students will be able to/ understand or know...

- 1- How to plan for their future goals.
- 2- How to come up with a plan to achieve those specific goals, both short and long term.
- 3- How to set progressive steps towards their goals.
- 4- How to make informed decisions about College Education and Integrity.

**Week 5-6:**

Competency # 3: Study Skills and Time Management

Students will be able to/ understand or know...

- 1- Learn and practice study skills that will increase their performance in school.
- 2- Learn new strategies for studying.
- 3- Practice new skills learned in order to have confidence in working with these skills.

**Week 7-8:**

Competency # 4: College Resources and Learning Styles

Students will be able to/ understand or know...

- 1- Identify which learning style(s) allows them to learn best.
- 2- How they can sharpen their skills regarding other learning styles in which they may be weaker.
- 3- Identify and learn vocabulary that is relevant to college terminology.
- 4- Learn how to manage and organize college class schedules.

**Week 9:**

Competency # 5: Research Skills and Utilization of Technology

Students will be able to/ understand or know...

- 1- How to conduct formal research and cite sources appropriately.
- 2- How to leverage access to databases and refine searches.
- 3- How to differentiate between reputable and non-reliable sources.
- 4- What distinguishes academic integrity from academic dishonesty.
- 5- How to use digital presentation tools

**Weeks 10-11:**

Competency # 6: Cultural Competence and Independence

Students will be able to/ understand or know...

- 1- How to create a resume and cover letter for future employment.
- 2- Recognize the traits and specific qualities employers look for.
- 3- How to respect other cultures and people with those different cultural backgrounds.
- 4- Respect values, traditions, and beliefs of other cultures while being comfortable with their own cultural upbringings.
- 5- Discuss external and internal barriers that they might face in College.

**Week 12:**

Evaluation and Final Examination

Final exam (set by instructor)

College Now exit survey.

**Methods of Teaching:** These sessions will be conducted in person or virtually in small groups led by an instructor utilizing exercises, assignments, experiential activities, role-playing and discussion. When appropriate, the instructor will utilize lecture mode.

**Method of Evaluation:** Students will be evaluated in terms of class work, written work, and a final examination. Attendance is crucial.

**Required Readings:** These are listed within each unit plan (linked above).