

Qualities of a Master Student

As students, you are constantly striving for excellence. You work hard, study hard and seldom have time for yourself. As a result, you find yourself warned out or burnt out before finals, and in some instances, you are so over-saturated and overwhelmed that you are unable to study effectively, let alone retain the information you have studied.

To combat your continuous struggle to become a master student: a student of excellence, you are constantly looking for ways to improve your already good study habits and attitudes toward learning. To this avail, there are techniques to unmask poor study habits and replace them with a master approach: an approach that you possess but seldom use.

The following is a list of criteria for becoming a Master Student.

1. ***Inquisitive.*** Master students are curious about everything, and ask questions that generate clarification which can lead to a better understanding of the material.
2. ***Able to focus attention.*** Master students become absorbed in the process or activity and keep their attention absolutely focused in the here and now.
3. ***Able to organize and sort.*** Master students can take a large body of information and sift through it to discover relationships between them. They can play with information; organize pieces of data by size, color, order, weight, and other categories.
4. ***Competent.*** Master students are masters of skills. When they learn formulas, they learn them so well, it becomes second nature.
5. ***Self-questioning.*** Master students are willing to evaluate themselves and their behavior. They regularly examine their lives.
6. ***Intuitive.*** Master students have a sense that is beyond logic. They have learned to trust their feelings, and work to develop that sense.
7. ***Creative.*** Master students are creative in every aspect of their lives. They can gather pieces of knowledge from a wide range of subjects and put them together in a new way. What others see as dull and trivial elements, the master students see as opportunities to create.

8. ***Willing to be uncomfortable.*** Master students are not run by the desire for comfort. When discomfort is necessary to reach a goal, they are willing to experience it.
9. ***Willing to let go of ideas.*** Master students do not consider their thoughts and ideas to be of themselves. They do not hang on to ideas as if the survival of the ideas is synonymous with their own survival. They are thus open to many more ideas than are most of us.
10. ***Willing to laugh.*** Master students might laugh at any moment, and their sense of humor includes the ability to laugh at themselves.
11. ***Hungry.*** Master students are hungry for knowledge. They approach learning out of the desire for learning itself.
12. ***Willing to work.*** Once inspired, Master students are willing to follow through with hard work. They recognize that genius and creativity are the result of persistence and hard work.

Good Luck!

Ellis, David B. (1985). Becoming a Master Student. (p. 29-33)