Get Off to a Good Start: 5 Mistakes to Avoid
(Adapted from Jacobs and Hyman, "The Secrets of College Success")

1. **Don't cut class.** Each class period I teach has a specific objective. If you miss class, you will fall behind in the flow of the course material. Another way to look at it – depending on the number of credit hours you take and how you do the calculation, the cost per lecture period is $30-60. Are you willing to take this money out of your pocket each time you cut a class?

2. **Procrastinating.** Most of my courses are designed to start fast. I assign homework quickly to get ahead of the semester rush. If you get behind in the course, it will be doubly hard to catch up and do well.

3. **Going it alone.** When you do get into trouble, I'm here to help. See me at the first sign of difficulty – don't wait and make things worse!

4. **Oversurfing.** When you come to class, give me your entire attention for the hour. Allowing your mind to wander with texting, internet surfing, etc. is almost like cutting a class (see #1 above).

5. **Overloading.** Judge at the beginning of the semester how much time each of your classes will take. If the time requirement is excessive, make an adjustment to your schedule. Cutting corners in my class will only make things more difficult for you (see #1-4 above).

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