

My personal motivation for improving my grades from freshman year is quite simple: After being placed on academic suspension, I finally realized that I did want to complete my degree. Like many freshman, I came in knowing that college was the right thing to do, but I was not committed to it, and my grades reflected that.

Project Success is designed for students who have a GPA of less than 2.0 who are on probation or who are coming off of an academic suspension. During this program, among many other skills, I was able to learn new time management skills that replaced my current time management system. I also learned new test preparation skills, as I had identified it as an area where I needed improvement. After I had successfully completed the program, I was eligible to return as a Student Peer Facilitator, who would work alongside the Staff Facilitators that run the program. Unfortunately, for the next two semesters my schedule did not provide time to do this. Starting in fall 2007, I was able to fit it into my schedule, and have continued with it since then. It is a very fulfilling experience working with these students, knowing that a few semesters ago you were in the same situation. Admittedly, participating in the program as a peer facilitator has continued to teach me new things, proving that there is always room for improvement.

That semester, with the combination of my schedule and the Project Success program, showed me that it is possible to improve, and that success is always within reach. Since that “turn around” semester, my semester and cumulative GPA have steadily improved, and I am finding that I am enjoying my time here at Virginia Tech even more.