SEVEN SUREFIRE TIPS FOR FLUNKING OUT

How even a super bright student like you can totally bomb out of CS!
Tip #1: Don’t Go to Class!

- You know it all already!
- It’s all online
- Just show up for the exams!
- Who’s going to notice?
Truth is...

- Review first week, then new material
- UIUC classes fast-paced
- Need a solid foundation
Tip # 2: Leave for Tomorrow What You Don’t Want to Do Today

• You’re smart
• Learn it all the night before the exam.
• Just one more video game (or TV show or Facebook posting or whatever)!

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Truth is...

- Each credit hour = \textit{at least} three hours of homework
- Poor time-management a top reason for academic probation
- Nobody’s going to manage your time for you
- For help: Counseling Center (610 E. John St, Champaign – just West of Altgeld Hall)
Tip # 3: Do It Yourself!

- No study groups
- Instructors, TAs, etc.: Do not disturb!
- You don’t need a tutor
- You can figure out your own schedule
- Embarrassing
Truth is...

- Working with a study group (when allowed) can save time
- A lousy grade, being put on Academic Probation and/or getting kicked out of the university is A LOT more embarrassing than asking for help ... from people who are eager to give it ... and are even paid to do so!
Tip #4: “Short Cuts” Are Good!

- Copy code
- “Consult” on exam problems
- Doesn’t matter how you get that “A”
- Who’s going to catch you?
Truth is...

• We are going to catch you...
• ...And you’ll probably flunk the class
• ...Or even get kicked out of the university
• Now that’s a short cut!
Tip #5: Get Ahead of Yourself!

- Register for as many hours as possible
- Load up on difficult, technical courses
- Ignore placement messages
- Prerequisites are for wimps!
- Try to finish your degree early
- If you do poorly in a class, just move on to the next course!
Truth is...

- There is no “ahead” or “behind” – everyone has to go through the program at his/her own pace
- Better to step back and get a solid foundation in the fundamentals than to rush through and dig yourself a deeper and deeper GPA hole
Tip #6: You Can Do it All!

- Social life
- Sporting events
- Concerts
- Work 40 hours a week
- Do a project with your friends
- Start a business
- There’s so much to do!
Truth is...

- It is good to get involved in extracurricular activities
- The key is BALANCE
- Be especially careful not to overload yourself your first semester here
Tip #7: Don’t Worry about Your Health

- Sleep?
- Exercise?
- Nutrition?
- You’re young!
Truth is...

- You SHOULD pay attention to your health
- Getting exhausted and getting sick can ruin a whole semester
- Getting sleep, eating well and exercising improves performance in the classroom