University of South Dakota

Whether you're a high school graduate just starting out or a working adult looking to finish that degree you began years ago, financial issues shouldn't stop you from getting the degree you deserve. At the University of South Dakota, academic excellence, generous financial aid packages and relatively low costs of attendance offer any student a high quality education at an affordable price.

More than 90 percent of the students on USD's campus receive some form of assistance through scholarships and other forms of financial aid. With the Coyote Commitment Scholar-

ship Program, USD helps make extraordinary educational opportunities even more affordable. Combine that with numerous departmental scholarships, financial awards and a low out-of-state tuition and you'll find USD fits the bill.

The University of South Dakota is home to the state's only law and medical schools as well as the only College of Fine Arts in the region. Entrepreneurs and accountants will attend USD's professionally accredited Beacom School of Business and students studying disciplines ranging from biology to sociology will experience cut-

ting edge courses in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Choose from more than 132 degree programs and thousands of course offerings. USD's Graduate School offers 62 graduate programs including 16 doctoral degrees.

USD matches commitment to academic excellence with the personal attention and welcoming atmosphere necessary for a successful transition into college life. As the only South Dakota public university The Princeton Review named in its 2011 edition of "The Best 373 Colleges," USD is the perfect fit for students looking for a smart educa-

tional investment.

USD is big enough to provide nationally recognized faculty and programs, but small enough to offer personal attention. With small class sizes (a 15-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio), undergraduate research opportunities, and a host of extra-curricular clubs and activities, an education at USD is nothing short of extraordinary.

To schedule a visit or to learn more about the University of South Dakota, visit http://www.usd.edu or call 1-877-COYOTES.

Southeast Tech – Education For a New Generation

At Southeast Tech, nine Institutes of Excellence encompass 50 programs to offer students the ability to specialize in careers that are highly sought-after. We know that finding an education that is both relevant and affordable is challenging. That's why we have committed more than 40 years to crafting programs that deliver fresh and innovative knowledge in two years or less. National accreditation coupled with a faculty that is industry-savvy ensures that not only will education be valid and credible but also rewarding.

At Southeast Tech, we've refocused the concept of traditional higher ed. Southeast Tech has offered more streamlined and cost-effective methods of education since 1968. In fact, more than 14,000 students have chosen to 'Live Blue' at Southeast Tech, to achieve their degrees and start a new life full of opportunity!

Created by market demand,

more than 50 of today's hottest career-focused Associate in Applied Science Degrees and Diplomas are offered at Southeast Tech in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Education is streamlined, allowing students to complete most degrees in 24-months or less and get into the job market with the market's best employers fast. Classes are small, ensuring that students will never be overlooked or under-appreciated. Two nearly new apartment com-

plexes are located on campus and house 200 students.

The majority of all programs, with the exception of some health programs, are now taught with laptop technology. Southeast Tech's laptop technology program provides laptops, which can be financed with Financial Aid if available, and enables students to take their laptop with them upon graduation. A wireless network allows students to easily communicate with instructors and each other.

More than $100,000 in Scholarship money is available expressly for Southeast students to apply for annually. If you're shopping for a degree, we encourage you to take a moment to compare Southeast Tech with other colleges. After it all adds up, you may decide that 'Living Blue' is the right choice for you as well.

Located in beautiful and urbane Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Southeast Tech is the state's largest technical institute and enrolls more than 2,600 students every year. Southeast Tech offers the most affordable tuition rates available in Sioux Falls - at least $100 less per credit hour, which adds up to $6,000 in just two years! For more information, or to request materials call 605.367.6040, toll-free 800.247.0789 or visit www.southeasttech.edu today!

How to take effective notes

A student's success in school is measured by the assignments completed and tests he takes. The students who garner the best grades and do well in class are often those who are effective listeners and note-takers.

Professor Dennis Jertz of Seton Hall University has said that taking lecture notes effectively is one of the skills students must learn to make the transition from high school to college careers. Note-taking is also necessary in the business world, making it a worthwhile skill to learn.

Despite its importance in higher learning, not much study has gone into the correlation between note-taking and performance improvement. As a result, statistics supporting the importance of effective note-taking do not exist. But it stands to reason that the student who takes good notes, and studies well from them, has a sporting chance to improve his or her grades over others with poor notes.

Learning Note-taking

It may not seem as such, but note-taking can almost be a lesson all its own. If only students could enroll in Note-Taking 101. Some elementary and high-school teachers attempt to teach strategies for taking notes, including developing outlines, but many students still struggle to maintain the essentials as they move through school. It can be confusing knowing just how much to write down without creating a novel or having notes so scant that they provide little information when it comes time to study.

There are many systems of note-taking that a student can learn. These include using graphic representations to map out interconnected concepts. Outlines or charts can group terminology together with related ideas. There are other tech-

niques that use cue words to trigger recollection of facts and dates. Mnemonic devices help recall information. Students can experiment with different methods until they find a system that works well and offers measurable success.

Improving Listening Skills

No matter what method of note-taking is used, adequate listening skills are necessary to take effective notes. This helps students transfer what the professor is saying into ideas that can be put down on paper. Staring off into space or having your mind drift can cause a student to miss out on key parts of a lecture. To improve note-taking skills, a student must first improve listening skills.

* Sit up closer to the teacher or professor. This enables eye-to-eye contact that may help a student focus. It may also trigger visual clues to a professor to gauge whether the class is catching on or missing what's being taught. It's also advantageous from a practical standpoint. It enables students to better hear what's going on. If the professor is garbled or inaudible when sitting far away, moving closer is essential, especially in a large lecture hall.

* Remove distractions. When a student enters the classroom, he or she should be ready to learn. That means silencing mobile devices and gearing the mind toward the lessons. Not every lecture will be exhilarating, so students should make a conscious effort to pay attention. Limiting distractions can help.
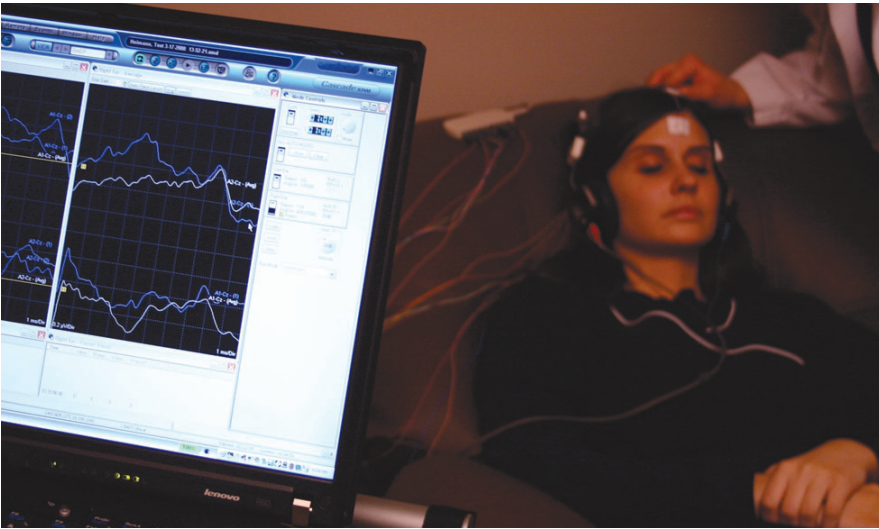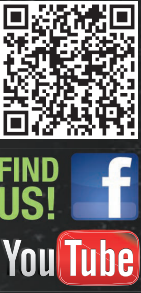
* Use an assistance device. Students who are prone to "zoning out" may want to ask permission to use a voice recorder. This way if key elements of the

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