

YOUR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

Strategies for Success

SECOND EDITION



John N. Gardner A. Jerome Jewler

This book has the following teaching and learning resources:

- Instructor's Manual • Test Package • The Wadsworth College Success Course Guide
- The Wadsworth College Success Film and Video Program • *The Keystone Newsletter*
- Video series available through SCETV



Your College Experience

Strategies for Success

Second Edition

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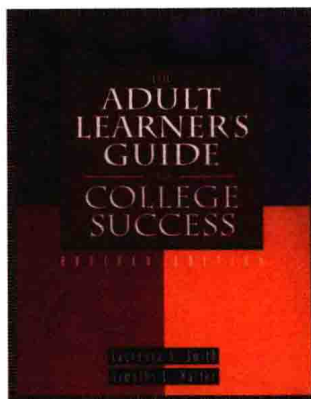
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Your College Experience

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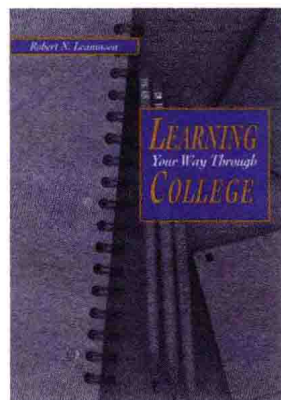
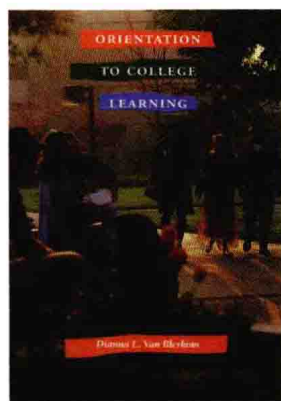
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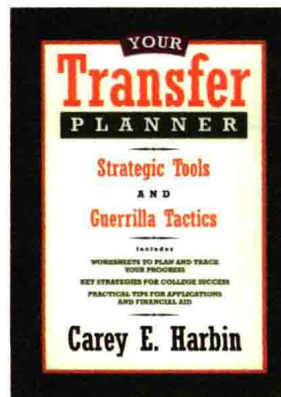
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We thank our wonderful families and colleagues for their patience over the past several years as we watched this book take shape. We thank our students for proving to us that the basic assumptions in this book really do work. We thank faculty, staff, and administrators at colleges and universities for believing in those same basic assumptions. Most important of all, we welcome all new first-year students to their college experience and urge them, in the words of Tennyson, to be “strong in will, to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.”

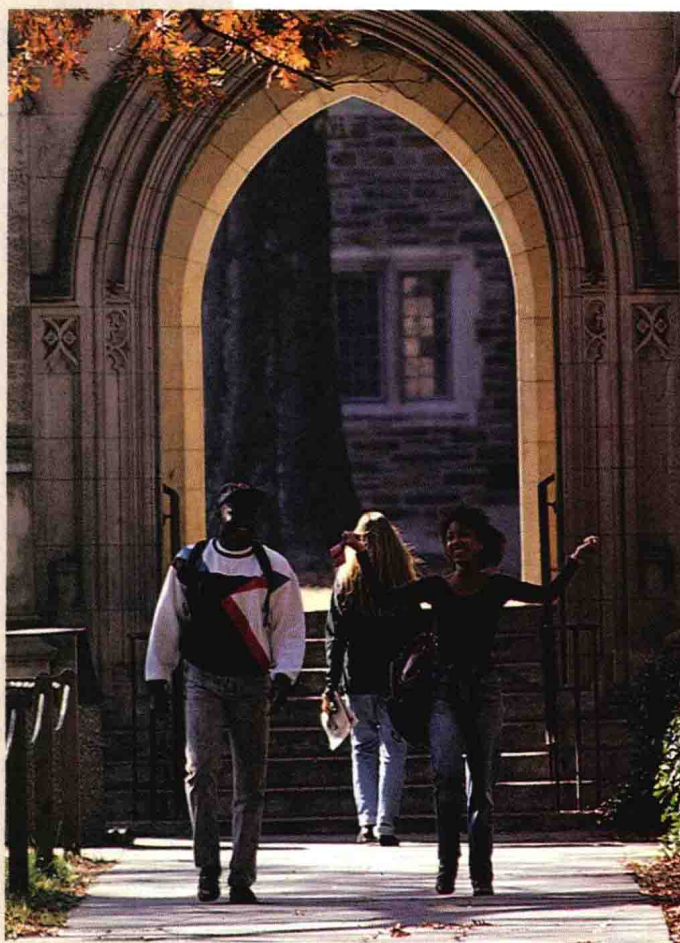
Timely, Interactive, Comprehensive, Flexible

*I am a part of all that I have met;
Yet all experience is an arch wherethro'
Gleams that untravelled world....*

From "Ulysses" by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

The first edition of Your College Experience united many voices of the student success movement in a flexible, practical program of strategies for success. Our aim for the second edition is to continue that tradition and to reflect the discoveries and insights of the movement in the past two years.

This book supports a dynamic, holistic course. Its single most important aim is a constructive, interactive classroom experience for every student.



A FRAMEWORK FOR SUCCESS

We know what first-year college students most need to do:

- ▶ Make friendships and form groups that support their college goals
- ▶ Assess their own preparation, interests, and commitments
- ▶ Learn new ways to define and accomplish goals
- ▶ Confirm and extend basic study skills to more active, critical, creative learning
- ▶ Pass beyond “survival” thinking to an attitude for true success
- ▶ Make writing an integral part of learning

In support of those goals, college success courses continue to evolve in response to national and local changes. On a national scale we see a growing desire among instructors to help students develop academic strategies beyond the basic reading, note-taking, and test-taking skills. This edition therefore includes four new chapter topics by specialists in their fields:

- ▶ **Speaking for Success:** A practical guide to short oral presentations and ad hoc speaking
- ▶ **Problem-Solving and Success in Math and the Sciences:** An aid for problem-solving in situations outside math as well
- ▶ **Thinking in College:** A practical, exercise-based approach to training students to argue less on emotional grounds and more on evidence and careful thinking
- ▶ **Computing for College Success: Technology on Campus:** Strategies for understanding technology on campus and for improving one's personal use of it

On the local level, every campus must design the course around its own unique blend of student and institutional needs. To support that goal, we have included several other innovations:

- ▶ A chapter to help students develop survival skills for college and life
- ▶ An exciting chapter on cultural diversity with interactive exercises designed to make every new student feel welcome and respected
- ▶ A new library research chapter that supports your campus process for teaching information-retrieval skills
- ▶ A separate chapter on the value of a liberal arts education

We have also made the book more flexible by dividing it into more chapters. In the interest of brevity, several sections in the first edition have been moved to the optional, customizable portion of materials (see “Building Your Own Book,” below), including the sections on returning students, nutrition and fitness, and assertiveness. At the same time, we have retained essential coverage from these units in the core book—for example, the “Tips for Returning Students” in Chapter 1. The former appendix on money management has been expanded to a full chapter, including exercises, available in customized versions.

Other organizational improvements follow the pattern of changes made in *Your College Experience*, Concise Edition. For example, discussions of academic advisors and the college catalog have been united in one chapter.

BUILDING YOUR OWN BOOK

In addition to the twenty-three full-color chapters of the new edition, instructor sample copies of this text include nine optional black-and-white chapters, available for custom adoptions. Completely new optional chapters address such topics as leadership and living away from home.

Instructors either can simply adopt the standard, full-color version or can arrange one of several customized versions. One choice is to adopt the standard full-color edition along with selected optional black-and-white chapters bound separately. Another is to select chapters from the standard chapters and the optional chapters, which then can be combined and bound as one black-and-white edition of the book. Along with customized selection of chapters, you can arrange to have materials from your own campus included in the bound volume.

For more information on the optional chapters and how to “build your own book,” please consult the pages preceding the optional chapters at the back of this book.

SUPPLEMENTS AND SUPPORT

Several useful supplements accompany this volume. These include:

- ▶ **The Wadsworth College Success Course Guide:** A general resource for instructors that covers a range of subjects, from building support for a freshman year course to administering the course and redefining and shaping it for the future
- ▶ **Instructor's Manual to Accompany *Your College Experience*, Second Edition:** A volume dedicated to helping you teach the chapters of *Your College Experience*, incorporating advice, questions students commonly ask, additional activities and exercises, suggestions for evaluation, and more
- ▶ **Test Package:** A collection of test and quiz items designed to support the chapters of the main text
- ▶ **The Keystone Newsletter of the Wadsworth College Success Program:** A substantive newsletter that allows you to share ideas with colleagues around the country
- ▶ **Wadsworth's Film and Video Policy:** A way to enhance your course presentations. Consult your local sales representative for more details

Additional support for you and your course includes the following:

- ▶ **Video Series, *Your College Experience: Strategies for Success*:** Produced by the University of South Carolina and South Carolina Educational Television, twelve 5–7-minute video programs, based on the text, are designed to teach, inform, motivate, and stimulate lively group discussion. The series is highly adaptable to many educational settings. To order or to request information, call or write: SCETV Marketing, Box 11000, Columbia, SC 29211, 803-737-3441; fax 803-737-3503. The series is also available through PBS Adult Learning Satellite Service: Call weekdays 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM eastern time: 1-800-257-2578; fax 703-739-8495.
- ▶ **Teacher Training Seminars with Wadsworth Authors:** Held several times a year in various regions, these workshops allow you to interact with the author and develop your teaching skills in general
- ▶ **Additional Training and Seminar Information:** Available through the National Resource Center for the Freshman Year Experience at the University of South Carolina at 803-777-6029
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ACKNOWLEDGING A NATIONAL EFFORT

One great reward of our work on this book is the extent to which it keeps us in touch with a vibrant national community of educators committed to their students' success in college. The book continues to be a rewarding national collaborative effort of students and educators.

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Finally, we express our sorrow at the recent and premature death of Kenneth F. Long. A marvelous teacher at the University of Windsor, Ontario, Ken played a major role in the creation of this book. We will miss him as colleague and friend.




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