

FIRST YEAR STUDENT SKILLS

Some of you may have been out of school for a while, or never attended classes on a postsecondary (after High School) level. We encourage you to begin learning the research skills necessary in an academic environment and crucial to success in your studies. To ensure academic success students should:

- Develop skill and confidence in using Bible study and reference tools (concordances, dictionaries, handbooks, atlases, etc.)
- Take opportunities to engage intellectually with a subject, controversies within that topic, and sources related to differences
- Take opportunities to develop computer skills
- Begin to learn research skills crucial to information literacy including:
 - How to formulate and clarify a question (define what you don't know)
 - Devise and implement an effective research strategy on those issues
 - Learn effective use of online search engines and resources
 - Learn how to gain access to books, periodicals, journals, and reference materials outside of class
 - Develop and apply initial criteria for evaluating information and its sources (e.g. is the information or explanation Biblically sound?)
 - Acknowledge the use of information sources appropriately (cite in a consistent manner) when reporting what you've found

Do not expect to understand everything in each class without prior background (D2 and other Bible studies) or without outside research on your own. That's why learning to master these skills as early in your studies as possible is necessary. In this way you will feel you are "keeping up" with what is being taught.