This document provides information and suggests strategies to help international students and English Language Learners be successful. The following strategies will help language learning in practice:

**Listening (note-taking)**
- Listen for and write down the main points or ideas in the lecture. Don’t try to write everything you hear.
- Organize your notes so you can understand them later. Find a way that works best for you.
- Try using your native language to make quick notes or comments in the margins; this can help you remember material you might otherwise forget.
- Find a note-taking partner in class, someone you can compare your notes with—this is a strategy students use to check that they have all the information they need.

**Speaking (class discussion and presentations)**
- Prepare for class discussion by making a list of questions or comments about the reading material before class. This will give you something to talk about if the teacher calls on you.
- Remember that it’s okay to have an accent—as a language learner, you have the right to use the language in your own way.
- If you must give a presentation in class, practice it several times beforehand. Try it once by yourself, perhaps in front of a mirror. Then, try it in front of a few friends.

**Reading (processing class material)**
- Use active reading strategies—don’t be afraid to write in your textbook: make notes in the margins, use a highlighter or colored pen to mark important passages, and write down a response after you read.
- Scan the material for key terms. Mark paragraphs with important names, dates, or concepts. This helps you find a specific piece of information later.

**Writing (responses, essays, etc.)**
- Try prewriting strategies, like freewriting, brainstorming, making an outline, etc.
- If you aren’t sure about an assignment, talk to your professor or ask a DEWC writing consultant.
- Don’t try to write a “perfect” essay—first, get your ideas down on paper, and then focus on revising them.
- Go to the DEWC writing center and have a consultant look at your paper.
- Remember that even native speakers struggle to write a successful essay; it takes practice to find a process that works for you.