**Student Success True False Quiz Answers  
All these questions are false.**

\_\_\_\_ 1. Talent is the most important factor in student success.

Grit may matter more than talent. Our success in life depends more on passion and perseverance than innate talent. We assume people are successful because of their talent. Focusing on talent is harmful because it underemphasizes the need for effort and hard work. Talent is simply how quickly your skills improve when you invest effort. Will Smith stated, “I have never really viewed myself as particularly talented. Where I excel is in having a ridiculous, sickening work ethic.” Angela Duckworth says that “without effort, your talent is nothing more than your unmet potential.”

\_\_\_\_2. Current research showed that the most successful students at West Point Military Academy were the ones with the highest GPA’s and athletic ability.

West Point is a very selective college and all students selected have the highest GPA’s and athletic ability, yet 20% drop out before graduation, most in the first semester. Research showed that successful students were the ones with a “never give up” attitude, or grit.   
   
\_\_\_\_3. Aptitude guarantees achievement.

Aptitude does not guarantee achievement. Those who are successful have passion and perseverance, or grit.

\_\_\_\_4. Students with math aptitude excel in match courses.

Students who work the hardest are the most successful in math. You develop the ability to succeed in math.

\_\_\_\_5. Having natural musical talent is the most important factor in becoming a great musician.

Effortful training in music is more important than musical talent.

\_\_\_\_6. Greatness cannot be achieved by the average person.

Anyone can achieve greatness. Excellence is attained by effortful practice. It involves taking small steps at a time, improving step-by-step, and doing this consistently over time. Everyone can take these small steps toward greatness. Greatness is acquired.

\_\_\_\_7. If you are a genius, you are more likely to be successful.

Angela Duckworth describes the “cult of the genius” which can be harmful. If you don’t consider yourself a genius, you are not motivated to compete and put in the effort to be successful.

\_\_\_\_8. Those who struggle with learning are the least likely to be successful.

You must overextend yourself to do anything well. Those who struggle and invest hard work, may learn better and accomplish more. Those who struggle and have grit have the confidence to try repeatedly until they are successful.

\_\_\_\_9. Students who are extremely motivated at the beginning of the semester are the ones who are most likely to succeed.

College students are often motivated at the beginning of the semester, but lose motivation over time. What is most important is consistency over time. Enthusiasm is common. Endurance is rare.   
  
\_\_\_\_10. Most famous historical figures had a high IQ.

IQ matters very little in distinguishing the most accomplished from the least accomplished historical figures.

\_\_\_\_11. Grit or perseverance has a strong genetic basis.

A recent study of identical twins raised in different environments showed a hereditability for perseverance at 37%. Although grit and perseverance are influenced by our genes, experience is more important. There is no single gene for grit or any other psychological trait.

\_\_\_\_12. As a person grows older, grit or perseverance decreases.

As people mature over time, they learn to deal with rejection and disappointment. They develop the capacity for long-term passion and perseverance as they grow older.

\_\_\_\_13. Grit cannot be increased.

Grit can be increased through finding interest, effortful practice, finding a purpose in life, and having hope for a better future.

\_\_\_\_14. Success is closely related to time on task.

Success is not related to time on task, but better time on task. Deliberate practice is required. Deliberate practice has 4 components: a clearly defined stretch goal; full concentration and effort; immediate and informative feedback, and repetition with reflection and refinement.

\_\_\_\_15. It is not possible to get smarter.

Part of the growth mindset is that people can change. Through learning, people can get smarter throughout life.