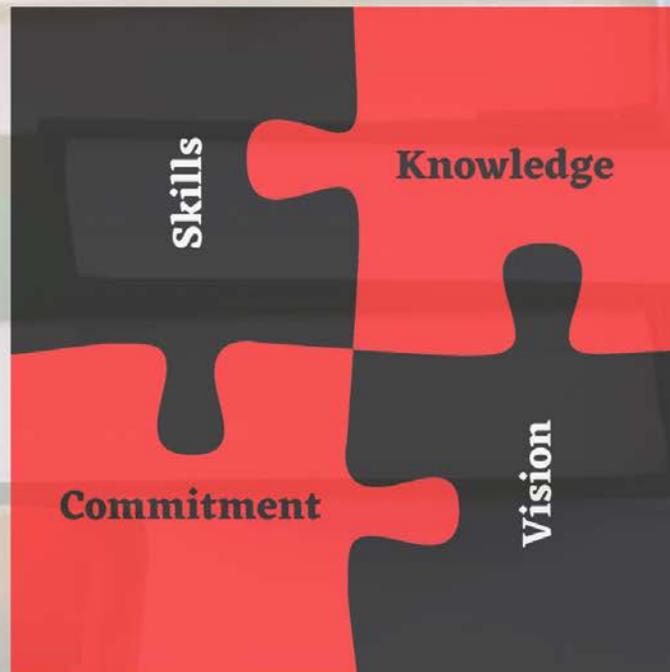


SOFSON

# STUDENTS' MASTER PLAN FOR SUCCESS

A Must  
Read for  
Every  
Student



HOW TO CLARIFY YOUR VISION, ACQUIRE RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE, GROW YOUR SKILLS, AND COMMIT TO REACHING YOUR AMBITION FROM COLLEGE

OBINNA FIDELIS

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# STUDENT'S MASTER PLAN FOR SUCCESS

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OBINNA FIDELIS



## The Concept

*Commitment unlocks the door of imagination, allows vision, and gives us the right stuff to turn our dream into reality*

*-James P. Womack, author LEAN Thinking*

There is a jigsaw puzzle on the cover of this book, putting it there reminds me that life comprise of different components that comes together to become whatever we call it today. Also, it added some beauty to the cover - thanks to Canva.

Moreover, the puzzle helped to present the fact that Vision, Knowledge, skill, and commitment form the basis for accomplishing any outstanding success in life, which of course is the essence of this book.

Unlike most people today, I believe college education is the best thing that can ever happen to anybody - I may be wrong though. But then, as a student with a clear vision of the life you desire, you should know that school/education is not a magical wand that will take you to your destination; get you that dream job or build the business you want. It will help a bit, but alone it's inadequate. Gathering knowledge, while also gaining skills outside of class, pursuing personal goals, doing extracurricular, putting your mind to work, and committing to combining knowledge and skills towards a defined vision is the only way out.

Here is my first gift for you in this book; Ready or not, life will always happen; and it will always favour the wise who know how to strategize and make things happen. You can dream all you want, if there is no strategy for those dream to be executed; the outcome is almost predictable. But with a well-designed masterplan, success is rest assured.

The concept in this book is to help you make informed decisions about school, and take advantage of the knowledge you gain in school to build skills relevant to the vision you have in mind. It is about preparing you for the future you desire, and my aim is to give you tools and strategies that will help you make your college education a rewarding and fruitful journey, one that you will forever want to live with and recommend to others.

## Chapter One

### MISSION CRITICAL!

*“Education is not the answer to the question. Education is the means to the answer to all questions.*

*–BILL ALLIN, Sociologist and Education Activist*

A lot of people these days have BSc, HND and even MSc, unfortunately they don't have a job or a means of living - Up goes the line “School na scam”!

School have disappointed so many graduates and will possibly con you If you don't put in the work to get good returns for your investment. Truth is, you either pass through school or you allow school to pass through you, either ways, you only get the result you create for yourself.

To start with, much have been said and propagated on how miserable it is to go through the motion of higher education and end up with a degree, plus a life full of resentment and displeasure that comes from not being able to get a good job or start a viable enterprise - **passing through school**. Little have actually been said of how useful school is and how to help more students to let **school pass through them** - i.e to maximize college experience and end up with abundance of interesting career opportunities doing something they will love, especially with the increased passion for education in the African communities.

When I was younger, we were told - if you go to school, studied hard and graduate, you won't get to serve your mates, you will be rich and prestigious. This made a lot of sense to me, just as it did to every other kid I grew up with. So, I jumped right into school with the notion that just going to college and getting a degree will make me rich, respected and bring me fulfilment. Little did I know that even though knowledge is key to greatness, I still need the right combinations for the locks.

Maybe school is a total waste of time and resources? At least my brother that started a business the same year a gained admission is now my landlord (he also sends me pocket money). That was me thinking loud three years ago, but my

lecturers will never agree to that - I mean to the supposed fact that school is scam, even though most of them have a mixed feeling about this.

I was encouraged in school to take my studies serious so that I can earn good grades, which meant high CGP, a glamorous certificate that can transits to a better job, more money, joy, prestige and a superb future. Nobody actually took the pain to explain how formal education or let me say tertiary education can be an instrument to unlocking the future I desire. Instead more emphasis was placed on the opportunities that degrees and certificates will offer whoever possess one, rather than what they BECOME from the awareness and experiences life offers in the walls of a university and its likes.

Here is the fact, until you know and appreciate the real purpose for formal education and be able to leverage it to develop your abilities, passion and life vision then and only then can you look back and say “school served me”. If not, you will get admission, study hard, and like me - be heavily disappointed when you graduate and then look for who to blame or join the guilt song (“**last, last, school na scam**”).

Over the years, I have seen lots of students that understood how to take advantage of higher education to create and live in the world they’ve desired. Below are real-life examples you can relate with.

Dosu Edwards (not the real name) is a 200-level student of the Air Force Institute of Technology, Kaduna where he is studying Aerospace Engineering. He knew how to let school pass through him, no wonder he is always on every team working on all ground breaking projects the institution embarks on. He very early in school understood how to leverage the little knowledge he had and the relationships at his grasp to create an alignment between his life vision and the school’s mission such that every research the institution takes on, creates opportunities for him to grow towards reaching his desired future.

I had almost a similar situation when I was in school - (every school has this story) where two of my course mates (Uche & Nkama) always volunteered to set up practical classes with our instructors. I can remember how other students made jest of the way the instructors send them around like boss boys. We often mimicked the instructor and labelled one of the boys - “Uche weyterem breadboard”, meaning - Uche bring me a breadboard.

Now, back to these guys. they knew exactly what they wanted from school and understood better than us that those moments carry with it the real-life lessons and

practical ways they needed to reach their goals. As I write these lines, the institution had retained and trained them as technologist which was their dream in the first place. (They were the only students retained in our set even though they were not anywhere close to the top ten best students in the class).

The list of similar stories is inexhaustible, Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook, Chimamanda Adichie with her poetries even as a medical student in the University of Nigeria Nsukka etc. Am so sure you can relate with how the popular Nigerian comedian AY and his colleagues - Bovi and UchBaby started their career doing what they loved while using Delta State University as a springboard to test and achieve their dreams. Today we admire their courage and love the excellence they've earned, but the fascinating part .... **To Be Continued**

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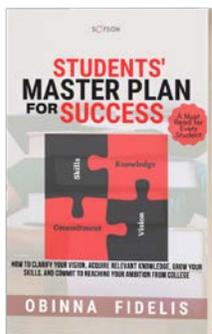
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## Chapter Two

### The Starting Point

*“Definiteness of purpose is the starting point of all achievement.”*

- W. Clement Stone. Business man, Philanthropist and author of New Thought Self-help book.

When you don't know the complete use of a thing, you can't have the best feel of it neither will you know how best to engage or apply it. Also, understanding the purpose of a thing makes accomplishing what you set out to achieve with it easier and more enjoyable.

In our today's information driven society, it is easy to quickly assume that we know what we are doing; which in most cases we don't. Whereas, a clear understanding of the purpose for which we make decisions and take actions is the underlying difference between a fulfilling life and a shattered one, yet, many people don't seek to know why they make certain decisions.

In this chapter, I'll discuss the purpose of higher education, how to define what you want from school, and how to you can align your “wants” with what today's education system has to offer and therefore, set a vision for your academic pursuit.

You will get to know the objective of education and how it is designed to help you achieve your dream life. This, is the starting point in your master plan to have an **awesome time in school**.

## The W - Questions

*“Ask the question, and the one that follows that, and the one that follows that”*

*- Theodore Sturgeon; Author of more than human.*

The **W** - questions (a concept in for why discovery) is a simple technique to help you discover what you actually want, examining the main cause for what you want, so you can define your core purpose for desiring education more accurately. It involves asking self-eliciting questions on **WHAT** you want and **WHY** you want them.

Here is how this is done. Ask yourself, why am I going to school? And write down a specific answer. Try not to force an answer, rather, wait for your mind to generate a response on its own. Once your mind gives you an answer, ask **WHAT** or **WHY** again (as occasion demands), get the answer, and repeat the question again. Continue asking the **WHY**, and **WHAT** questions again until you arrive at a “Because I want it” response.

I’ll show you how I answered my self-eliciting question when I was going for my post graduate studies. Before that,

Understand that desire is the foundation for everything we will or can be in life, it decides the direction to take and the things to carry with you. Desire precedes and clears the path for every other thing in life. Like Hills rightly put it - Desire is the starting point of all achievement.

The question to ask is, what do I really want? I know this can be a very difficult question to answer even though it sounds simple. We all think we know what we want, but really, we can barely say with precision what we ultimately desire. You should ask yourself, ... **To Be Continued**

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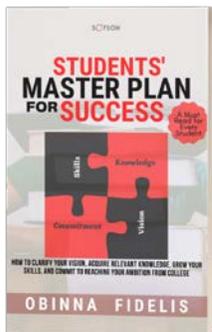
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## Chapter Five

# LEVERAGE SYSTEMS

*“When you combine ignorance and leverage, you get some pretty interesting results.”*

*- Warren Buffett*

Nothing works like a well-structured system, if you find one take advantage of it. It is clear that no man is an island of knowledge and no one survives on just his own wisdom, we learn from others to keep ahead in life.

Leveraging system is all about taking advantage of existing and available systems to create the future you desire as a student. You can't know it all, that is the reason why sometimes, people and systems are there to help you, if only you are ready to acknowledge, succumb and make good use of them.

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*“Leverage is the reason some people become rich and others do not become rich” - Robert Kiyosaki*

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Higher education is a system of education properly designed to meet the need of students for creating a better life, peaceful community and a united world. Inside our schools are many units that working together to make the system function perfectly. Your ability to discover the ones designed to help you personally is your ticket to make higher education a rewarding venture.

Here are some of the system and ideas you can leverage off to your advantage as you journey through college education. Don't hesitate to draw as much value from them as possible, channelling them into a productive tool to your life battles.

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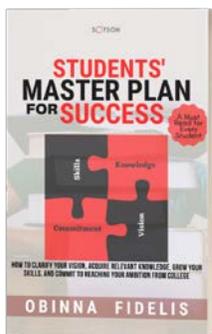
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## Chapter Six

### WINNING IN YOUR ACADEMICS

*"I'm not telling you it's going to be easy – I'm telling you it's going to be worth it."*

*- ART WILLIAMS*

In Nigeria specifically, and many other countries around the world; you cannot deny the importance of certificates and grades if you want to excel in any field of endeavour. Not that you can't do without certificates but to find placement in any field or attract opportunities in the tunes of job or contract you really have need for certificates. If anybody tells you not to make good grades, don't listen - it's a set up.

Winning in your academics will give you an edge over those that fail at it. As we already know, higher education provides general knowledge about the field you have chosen, and what most employers really feel is that - for you to have completed your college education with outstanding grade means you have learnt how to put in some work, how to be organized and how to overcome the challenges of the four walls of the academic world.

Here is a quick look at what I call the commandments for acing your academics and becoming an A - Student. You may find some of these rules funny, but they are tested and trusted tools to help fix your grade as a student. Understand this, your grade is of optimum importance, neglecting your grade totally will mean you are ignoring a key performance indicator - KPI which is one of the baselines for survival in Nigeria besides skills, and to be sincere with you - that is not good for business.

After interviewing some successful students on how they were able to ace their academics to become the top in their classes, I come up with tips as shown in subsequent pages. If you can find a way to apply them to your academics, I am sure you will get the same results.

## Chapter Seven

### MINDFULNESS

*Ninety percent of the game is half mental -*

*–YOGI BERRA, Former Professional Baseball Player and Malapropist*

Mindfulness and meditation have become a fast-growing market for decades now, this is because more people are beginning to understand that the state of their mind influences every other area of their life, their finance, relationship, health, faith and work. Thus, investing to enrich the mind is now the new goal.

From time being, success have always been reserved for those who engage their mind to produce the outcomes they desire. Think of the greatest inventors like Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Elon Musk, Steve Jobs and so on - they all are products of structured thoughts.

Mastering how to use your mind is one skill that is necessary for everyone that wants to grow and ultimately make a different in their life - which I think is the main purpose for education. If you can figure out how the human mind works and be dedicated to using it to your advantage, then you are sure to achieve whatever you desire.

At this point in this book, you will get some tips on how the mind work, how you can put yours to work and how it has helped so many people design and manifest the future they were able to conceive. As you take on this journey be ready to create the most exciting future you want for yourself and make up your mind to commit to the principles shared here so you get the perfect result.

## The Old Paradigm

*“To be able to shape your future, you have to be willing and able to change your paradigms”*

*- Joel Barker, author of The paradigm.*

We always know how to be better than we are, but we simply don't do what we know. Really, our problem is not with not knowing what to do, it is with our paradigm - the mind-set that controls our lives.

A paradigm is a mental program that has almost exclusive control over our habitual behaviour, and almost all of our behaviour is habitual.

Old paradigms or programming affects will continue to influence everything we do in life until we make a paradigm shift. It influences virtually every part of our life, it forms our value system, choice and goals. If you ever felt you are under a curse, it is also a conditioning that you have been made to believe over and over again till it became a conviction. Below are some areas paradigms takes control of in our lives.

**Perception - how we see things**; honestly, the way you perceive and will continue to perceive things depends on the program running on your subconscious mind. When confronted with challenges, you either see it as window of opportunity or a stumbling block. Your perception of any situation is a function of your paradigm. This is the reason we tend to criticize anything we don't understand. ... **To Be Continued**

The above and many more insights are obviously what this book will offer you. It will among other things serve as a guide on how to practically organize your life, make the necessary connections in school and develop your capacity for that greater future desire.

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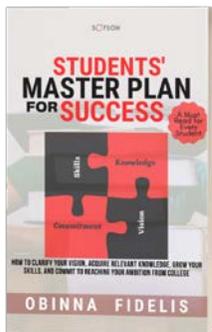
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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Obinna Fidelis is a Technologist; a Content creator; a Public speaker and a Social Media strategist. He is passionate about Teaching and Motivating people and is the Founder of the SOFSON GROUP.

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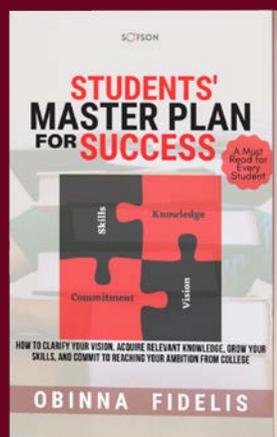
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